









**English Records of Maratha History**  
**Poona Residency Correspondence**

**Volume 9**

**Daulat Rao Sindhia and North  
Indian Affairs  
1800-1803**

Edited by

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## English Records of Marathā History

## Poona Residency Correspondence

General Editors—Sir Jadunath Sarkar and Rao Bahadur G. S. Sardesai

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## ERRATA

[N.B.—Owing to the Editor being absent on military duty, the final proofs could not be read by him, and many misprints have passed undetected. Slight errors, especially in the spelling of well-known names or due to the breaking of types, are not noticed here, as an intelligent reader will be easily able to correct them. J.S.]

Page iii, line 28, *for six read eight.*

Page vii, line 6, *for invasion on read invasion of*

Page ix, line 1, *for Gays read Gaya*

Page ix, line 42, *for of in read in*

Page xi, line 24, *for collected read collected a*

Page xxvii, line 36, *for prepondering read preponderant*

Page xxxi, line 3, *for the Sindhia's read Mahadji Sindhia's*

Page xxxi, line 34, *for Ahmedabad read Ahmadnagar.*

Page xxxii, line 41, *for at the read on the*

Page xxxv, line 4, *for Tapti read the Tapti*

Page xxxvii, 5 lines from bottom, *for Webbes read Webbe*

Page 297, line 14, *for munute read minute*

Page 303, line 3, *for some days read a few days*

Page 319, line 11, *for remonstrance for read remonstrance against*

Page 447, left column, line 22, *for Perrons read Perron.*

Page 454, right column, line 15, *omit Add before alliance.*



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## INTRODUCTION.

By the Treaty of Salbai (1782) the independent status of Mahadji Sindhia in his relations with the English was recognised for the first time, and since then a British Resident was regularly appointed to his court. It was the duty of this Resident to remain in the know of the affairs and the policy of Sindhia, and to keep the Governor General acquainted with the same. Copies of all the important despatches and other correspondence of note from this Resident were sent to the British Resident at Poona by reason of the latter occupying the centre of the Maratha power. Similar copies were forwarded to the Governors of Bombay and Madras, and also to those other British Residents who could possibly have anything to do with the subject-matter of the correspondence in question.

The interests of Sindhia were not restricted merely to his domain in Malwa or his other possessions in the Deccan. Mahadji Sindhia was officially invested as Deputy Regent Plenipotentiary (*Naib-wakil-i-mutlaq*) by the helpless Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II on the 4th December 1784. And though his successor, Daulat Rao Sindhia, was not invested with a similar designation, he continued to exert similar powers over lands far-flung in Northern India. The States of Rajputana continued to be his hunting ground, while his own *naibs* effectively ruled over the distant provinces of Delhi, Aligarh, Saharanpur and Agra. Thus the affairs of Sindhia practically embraced the entire North-Western Hindustan, and as such the correspondence of the Resident at his Court has a wider appeal than the papers merely recording the affairs of Poona. Moreover, after the recall of Major Browne from Delhi in 1785, the idea of keeping a separate British agent at Delhi was given up, and the Resident at the court of Sindhia was entrusted with the additional charge of looking after the British interests in Delhi, the Punjab and the provinces near about. The British contact with these parts was now slowly growing, and therefore from the historical and political points of view the doings of the Resident at the court of Sindhia acquired an added interest.

Major (later Col.) William Palmer was the Resident at the court of Sindhia when Mahadji Sindhia died at Poona on 12 February, 1794. Even after the accession of Daulat Rao Sindhia, Colonel Palmer continued to hold his office till November 1797, when he was sent to Poona as the Resident at the court of the Peshwa. Lt.-Col. (later Col.) J. Collins was now appointed

Resident to the court of Sindhia, but he could not assume charge of his new post till September 30, 1798. In the meanwhile Paris Bradshaw, the Assistant Resident to the Court of Sindhia, acted as the Resident.

The present volume begins from January 16, 1800, when for once everything was quiet and peaceful in the realm of Sindhia ; in other parts of Northern India too nothing of much importance was happening. But before long the situation changed ; internal rebellions and civil war were in turn followed by events which finally culminated in the Second Maratha War. This volume carries the tale up to August 4, 1803, when Collins finally withdrew from the camp of Sindhia and Bhonsla. War was declared two days later. For the sake of convenience the contents of this volume are divided into four sections :

1. North Indian events : 16th January 1800 to 9th December 1800 ;

2. Affairs of Sindhia : 12th August 1801 to 18th October 1802 ;

3. Events leading to the Second Maratha War : 14th November 1802 to 31st May 1803;

4. Persistent diplomacy of Collins to keep Sindhia and Bhonsla back from war, fails, 1st June to 4th August 1803.

A century of neglect and careless transportation of the official letter-books of the old Poona Residency has resulted in the loss of a good deal of the correspondence, while many letters and their enclosures are mutilated and are now available in a fragmentary form only. A search at the Imperial Records Department, New Delhi, has made it possible to restore the missing portions of many incomplete letters as well as secure for this volume despatches for the period of six months from December 1800 to August 1801, which appear at the end as a supplement. Important gaps of many missing letters have also been filled with the help of that valuable, but now scarce, volume of ' Parliamentary Papers relative to the Maratha War, 1803 '.

Every effort has been made to make this volume complete in itself so far as its main subject-matter goes, but all unnecessary repetitions have been carefully avoided. Letters which have already been printed in volume VII of the present series, "*Poona Affairs (1801-1810)*" have been omitted. The Poona affairs leading to the Treaty of Bassein and the restoration of Baji Rao to the *masnad* of Poona are being dealt with in a separate volume, and therefore all papers directly connected with that topic, have been excluded from the present volume.

### *Life-sketch of Colonel J. Collins.*

John Collins, whose full name was John Ulric Collins, was nominated a cadet in 1769 and the following year he joined the East India Company's Bengal Establishment, the 19th Regiment Native Infantry. He rose to be a Captain on November 20, 1780, a Major in 1794, a Lieutenant-Colonel on July 27, 1796 and finally became a Colonel on May 29, 1800. When Collins was still a Captain he married Charlotte Wrangham at Calcutta, on November 20, 1790. She survived Collins and died at the ripe age of 84 in London on February 5, 1857.

Collins assumed charge of the Residentsip at the court of Sindhia on September 30, 1798, when Daulat Rao Sindhia was away in the Deccan; and during his tenure of this office he usually stayed at his head-quarters at Fatehgarh, and only on two special occasions repaired to the court of Sindhia, after the Maharaja had returned to his own dominions in Hindustan. In 1801-02 he was ordered by the Governor General to meet Sindhia with a view to discussing with him and persuading him to accept a subsidiary alliance with the British. He left Fatehgarh on December 20, 1801 and reached Ujjain on February 20, 1802. On this occasion Charles (later Lord) Metcalfe, who was then a novice, was appointed an assistant to Collins. After staying at Ujjain for two months and more, Collins left the camp of Sindhia on May 10, 1802, and reached Fatehgarh on June 23, 1802. Within six months of his return he had once again to repair to the camp of Sindhia. He started from Fatehgarh on December 21, 1802, and arrived on February 27, 1803, in the vicinity of Sindhia's camp near Ratagarh, a village not very distant from Burhanpur.

It was considered advisable that negotiations with the Bhonsla of Berar should also be simultaneously carried on, and hence in March 1803 Josiah Webbe was appointed the Resident to the court of Bhonsla, and was instructed to proceed directly to Nagpur. But various circumstances prevented his starting for Nagpur, and Major Kirkpatrick, the Resident at Hyderabad, was asked to go there instead. But just then the Nizam became seriously ill, and Major Kirkpatrick too was prevented from proceeding to Nagpur. In the meanwhile Bhonsla after marching out of his own territories had encamped at some distance from the camp of Sindhia. As Collins was then in the camp of Sindhia the Governor General entrusted him with the additional charge of the Residentsip at this Court of Bhonsle on June 27, 1803.

Collins continued to be in attendance on Sindhia till the morning of August 3, 1803, when the negotiations for a peaceful settlement with both Sindia and Bhonsla having failed, he left their camp and journeyed down to Hyderabad. There he had a severe attack of gout. Early in 1804 he was appointed Resident to the court of the Nawab-Vazir of Oudh, which office he continued to hold till the end of his life. He died at Lucknow on June 11, 1807, and was buried there the same day with due military and civil honours. The principal tomb in the old Christian cemetery near Aminabad Bazaar is his, hence the vernacular name of the place '*Kallan-ka-Lat*'. On June 18, 1807, a Gazette Extraordinary was issued from Fort William, in which a fitting tribute was paid to him. It read :—

"The honourable Governor General-in-Council has received the melancholy intelligence of the decease of Colonel John Collins, late resident at Lucknow, on the morning of the 11th instant.

"The public and private virtues which distinguished the character of the late Colonel Collins, and his long and eminent public services, have rendered his decease a subject of deep regret and concern to the Governor-General-in-Council, and have placed the late Colonel Collins among the number of those esteemed and lamented officers whose abilities and exertions have contributed to the honour and prosperity of the British Government in India, and whose memory is endeared to it by the obligations of public respect, public gratitude and public applause."

During his early days Collins was known among his associates as 'Jack Collins'. In later days, however, he was very pompous, and wherever he was, he lived in a kingly fashion, hence he was generally called in Bengal "*King Collins*". "A noble suite of tents, which might have served for the Great Mogul, housed his servants and zenana, and a private artillery brigade with native gunners fired salutes for his guests. First glimpses (they were deceptive) showed an insignificant, little, old-looking man, dressed in an old-fashioned military coat, white breeches, sky-blue stockings, and large glaring buckles to his shoes, having his highly powdered wig, from which depended a pig-tail of no ordinary dimensions, surmounted by a small round black silk hat, ornamented with a single black ostrich feather, looking altogether not unlike a monkey dressed up for Bartholomew fair. There was, however, a fire in his black eye, shooting out from beneath a large, shaggy pent-house brow, which more than

counter-balanced the ridicule that his first appearance naturally excited.”<sup>1</sup>

Collins has been described as an obtuse man, as famed for psychological dullness as for arrogance. He was cold, imperious and over-bearing. Charles Metcalfe, who was Collins' assistant (December 1802—June 1803), “felt a stronger spirit of resentment against him (Collins) than he had ever felt towards any other man”. Metcalfe wrote, “To say the best of him he is a man whom one ought immediately to quit”. Metcalfe refused to submit to “the imperious dictates of this haughty ambassador” and left him. Collins, however, dismissed Metcalfe's fury in the easy fashion that elders do as a boy's silliness of hurt self-esteem, and let him go not merely without reluctance but with some generosity.

But Collins was held in very high esteem in the higher political circles of British India, and the Governor General more than once expressed “his entire approbation of the line of conduct which Collins pursued in his conferences with Daulat Rao Sindhia”. As a testimony of the high sense which the Governor General entertained of the zeal and ability which distinguished Collins' conduct during the whole course of his diplomatic duty, and of the meritorious services which he rendered to the Company, the Governor General appointed Collins his own honorary Aid-de-Camp on May 20th, 1803. Even the failure of Collins in dissuading Daulat Rao Sindhia from fighting the English in 1803 did not lower him in the esteem of government.

Collins was, indeed, a shrewd judge of things, and his keen insight into the affairs of the Indian Powers with whom he was associated greatly contributed to his success. During his long association with Sindhia's court he was able to determine very correctly the strength and weakness of the forces of Sindhia. When he met General Arthur Wellesley at Aurangabad on August 19th, 1803, he said, “I tell you, General, as to their cavalry (meaning the enemy's), you may ride over them wherever you meet them, but their infantry and guns will astonish you”. “As in riding homewards,” adds Blakistone, “we amused ourselves, the General among the rest, in cutting jokes at the expense of ‘Little King Collins’, we little thought how true his words would prove.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Blakistone, J., *Twelve Years' Military Adventures* i, 144.

<sup>2</sup> Blakistone, J., *Twelve Years' Military Adventures*, i, 144-5.

### *The Afghan Menace and events in the Punjab.*

As Resident at the court of Sindhia, it was a part of Collins' duty to keep in touch with the happenings at Delhi, and the Punjab, and more specially to keep an eye on the movements of Zaman Shah Abdali of Afghanistan, who during his short rule at Kabul never gave up the idea of invading India, and thus kept the British Indian Empire in a chronic state of anxiety and unrest.

Zaman Shah Abdali had last come to India in the cold weather of 1798-9, when he advanced up to Lahore, but had to turn back on January 4th, 1799, to Afghanistan due to the appearance of his rebel brother in Balkh. During the year 1799 the Shah was kept busy at home. Ranjit Singh was, however, steadily gaining strength in the Punjab, and now taking advantage of the anarchy that prevailed in the northern Punjab, became the master of Lahore (July 6, 1799). Zaman Shah had not given up the hope of invading India. Messengers carrying his letters appeared at Jaipur and Delhi (February-March, 1800). Zaman anxious to ensure an easy trouble-free march through the Punjab, was eager to attach Ranjit Singh, now the master of Lahore, to his own interests. He sent a *khilat* to Ranjit Singh (March, 1800). Ranjit Singh was also fully aware of his own difficulties and therefore was most anxious not to unnecessarily alienate Zaman Shah and thus invite immediate trouble. But fortunately for us, the intended invasion of Zaman Shah never came off. Zaman Shah ceased to be the ruler of Afghanistan in May, 1801 and was succeeded by his brother, Mahmud Shah, who in his turn was very much harassed and later replaced by his younger brother Shuja-ul-mulk, better known in history as Shah Shuja. Internal dissensions, local rebellions, tribal jealousies and conflicting ambitions now made it impossible for the ruler of Afghanistan to think of an invasion of India any more.

Ranjit Singh of Lahore took the fullest advantage of these troubles, and did his best to strengthen his own position in the Punjab. His increasing power, however, soon alarmed the neighbouring Sikh Sardars. The Bhangis of Amritsar and the Afghans of Kasur were the main opponents of Ranjit Singh, and they began to organise a confederacy to check the ambitions of Ranjit Singh, and troops were collected near Amritsar. Ranjit Singh defeated the confederated troops in the battle of Bhasin near Lahore (March, 1800). Moreover, Gulab Singh Bhangi, the leader of the confederacy, suddenly died just then, and the opposition to Ranjit Singh soon melted away. Two years later

in February 1802 Ranjit Singh defeated the Afghans of Kasur and extended his sway there.

This increasing power of Ranjit Singh, and more specially the special regard shown for him by Zaman Shah attracted the attention of other Powers in India. The British were most anxious to avert and if necessary to check an Afghan invasion on India, hence Yusuf Ali was deputed with presents to the court of Ranjit Singh. Not much came out of this move; and for the next few years the attention of the British was wholly taken up by affairs in the Deccan and the Second Maratha War.

### *Sindhia and North Indian Affairs.*

Daulat Rao Sindhia had succeeded to the vast possessions of his great predecessor, Mahadji, and was expected to control the Maratha affairs in Hindustan. But he had continued to be in Poona since his accession and was busily engaged there in the veritable maze of intrigues and ever-changing cliques, which followed the suicide of the young Peshwa Sawai Madho Rao on October 27th, 1795. It was the one ambition of Sindhia's life to make his influence supreme in Poona and thus become the sole dictator and the final arbiter of the affairs of the Maratha Empire. He was ever trying to strengthen his own control on the new Peshwa Baji Rao II, and even when the affairs in North India were definitely going from bad to worse he would not leave Poona. It was only on October 29th, 1800, that Daulat Rao finally left Poona, and then too mainly because the situation in Hindustan had become critical and his return there was unavoidable.

But during the early days of 1800 for once things were all peaceful and orderly in Hindustan. The release and restoration of Balloba Pagnis, better known as Ballu Tantya, to the high office of Sindhia's minister, had ended the revolt of Lakwa Dada, and the continuous persuasion and offer of every possible security by the officers of Sindhia for their safety, had quieted the Bais who were then peacefully living on the banks of the Bhima at Tuljapur. Jaswant Rao Holkar was also then without any particular support from other quarters, and hence he too was quiet for the time being, abiding his own time for another exploit.

The three officers who carried on the government of North India on behalf of Sindhia were Lachhman Rao Anant, who is better known as Lakwa Dada, General Perron and Ambaji Ingle. In spite of his rebellion last year, Lakwa Dada was once



again put in supreme control of the affairs of all the possessions of Sindhia in North India. He was the governor at Agra, and, save the lands given over to General Perron as *jaidad*, he governed the provinces of Ujjain, Mandsaur, Agra, Mathura, Delhi and Gwalior. The district of Ajmere was given to him in *jagir* by Sindhia. With the appointment of Ballu Tantya as the Diwan of Sindhia, Lakwa Dada's position was strengthened and he ruled over Hindustan with vigour putting down disturbances and restoring peace by settling private quarrels. A bogus Ghulam Qadir Khan, who had taken possession of the city and fort of Saharanpur, was defeated and driven out of it in less than 20 days. Ambaji Ingle was made to end his fight with the Raja of Datia, and the Nawab of Bhopal was assured that all those chieftains and other people who excited disturbances in his country would be duly chastised.

In matters military Lakwa Dada was assisted by the French adventurer, Perron, who was the supreme commander of Sindhia's army in Hindustan. He resided at Koil and enjoyed a big *jaidad* in the Doab, which had been originally given to De Boigne. He was in charge of the important fortresses of Delhi, Agra and Aligarh. But Ballu Tantya was a sworn enemy of Perron, and with his return to power Perron felt very uneasy; he was now eager to retire from the service of Sindhia. He took leave of absence for six months to go to Lucknow for the treatment of his malady, which was more mental and political than physical. Perron was granted leave of absence by Sindhia and was at the same time instructed to hand over the three fortresses to Lakwa Dada. But the Frenchman was not willing to hand over the fortresses to his rival, and in spite of repeated orders from his master he continued to evade compliance till the situation wholly changed and compliance was no longer necessary. Perron never took the leave of absence thus granted to him in 1799.

Ambaji Ingle, who has been described by Broughton as a tall, 'hale-looking man for his age, of dark complexion, and having much good humour and intelligence in his countenance, was the governor of Ajmere, and was in charge of the affairs of Mewar. During the last rebellion of Lakwa Dada, Ambaji had continued to be loyal and had fought the rebels as a partisan of Sindhia. And as his reward had been entrusted with the affairs of North India. It was, therefore, but natural that he should resent to find his rebel-opponent once again superseding him in the affairs of government. Ambaji knew full well that Ballu Tantya was "altogether inimical to his interests", and hence did not feel very happy under the changed circumstances. He,

therefore, thought of going on a pilgrimage to Gays and Benares, and thus be away from the scene of his humiliation and disgrace.

In February 1800 Ambaji was at Kotah, and was fondly hoping for another revolution at the court of Sindhia so that he might once again be entrusted with the *Naib-ship* of Hindustan and put in sole charge of the affairs of North India. He was, at the same time anxious to strengthen his own military power, and more specially to oppose and thwart the ambitious designs of Ballu Tantya. He sent messages to George Thomas, the Irish military adventurer, who had a very strong force of his own, to secure his support once again; but Thomas was too much taken up with his own affairs to respond to Ambaji's request. Ambaji was also eager to make a settlement with Jaswant Rao Holkar and Ali Bahadur, and to win them over to his side. On his return-journey towards Gwalior, when Ambaji was at Narwar, Perron called him for a conference at Dholpur (March, 1800), with a view to organising their opposition to Lakwa Dada and his party.

*Lakwa Dada's Rajputana Campaign, 1800.*—But while Ambaji was fretting and Perron was intriguing, Lakwa was carrying out a most successful campaign in Rajputana. Assisted by Pohlman's brigade, Lakwa reduced the strong fort of Jahazpur, which was then in the control of the Shahpura Chief. This victory made the Maharana pay a sum of five lakhs of rupees on account of the revenues of Mewar. Lakwa now moved on towards Jaipur. The relations of Sindhia's Government with that of Jaipur had not been very cordial for some time past, and now when Lakwa pressed for payment of the Jaipur State's contribution, Maharaja Pratap Singh refused to accede to the demand and prepared to resist his aggression. The Jodhpur forces too got ready to join those of Jaipur in their opposition to Sindhia. The Jaipur Government tried without any success to win over George Thomas to help them against Lakwa's advancing forces.

In the meanwhile Nana Fadnis died in Poona on March 13th, 1800: Sindhia apprehending that he might be involved in a serious contentions with the Peshwa's Government in the Deccan, was very anxious to avoid any complications in Rajputana; he sent instructions to Lakwa to that effect; but Lakwa was in no mood to show deference to the wishes of his Maharaja. His rival Perron was getting restive at his increasing power and influence of in Hindustan, and according to the reports of Collins, was trying to form a confederacy to help the Jaipur ruler. But before the opposition could unite, on

April 16th, 1800, Lakwa struck and utterly defeated the Jaipur forces, in the battle of Malpura.<sup>3</sup> The losses on both sides were great, but the defeat of the Rajputs was complete. For some time, however, no overtures for peace were made by the Jaipur Maharaja, and the Marathas continued to commit great devastation in the State territory. The battle of Malpura marks the final climax of Lakwa Dada's eventful career. Within twenty days of that victory Lakwa Dada himself became a wandering fugitive.

*The Fall of Lakwa Dada.*—While Lakwa Dada was carrying on this glorious campaign in Rajputana, things were taking a turn for the worse in the Deccan. Once again there was a revolution at the court of Sindhia, and Sindhia's father-in-law, Sharzaji Ghatge, who had been confined for the last two years, was released and restored to favour on January 4th, 1800. This was an event which marked the beginning of another series of internal revolts and troubles in Hindustan. The Bais apprehended the hand of Sharzaji in the wanton attack on Yamuna Bai perpetrated on January 14th, and started northwards to cause more trouble. And two months later with Nana Fadnis "departed all the wisdom and moderation of the Maratha Government". Now once again Sharzaji Ghatge gained ascendancy in the affairs of Sindhia, and it was his one desire to get rid of Ballu Tantya. On April 25th, 1800 the news of Lakwa Dada's victory at Malpura reached Sindhia, who was then encamped at Vanwadi. A durbar was held to celebrate the victory, and in that durbar Ballu Tantya was arrested and put in confinement.

The fall of Ballu Tantya was the signal for the end of the Shenvi supremacy in the government of Sindhia. Lakwa received the news, and knowing in advance that orders for his own arrest also had been passed by Sindhia, he left the Maratha camp on May 5th, 1800, and fled towards Ajmere. He entered into a solemn engagement with Maharaja Bhim Singh of Jodhpur to help him if Perron attacked Jodhpur. Lakwa sent his own family and his effects to Jodhpur and himself proceeded to Udaipur and continued to stay there till the middle of July, when he moved towards Ujjain to join the Bais who were now moving towards Malwa to create trouble in the realm of Sindhia. Sindhia, however, had apprehended that Lakwa might fly and

<sup>3</sup>The date of the battle of Malpura has been differently given by different authors; Compton gives it as 15th April (p. 237); in *Asiatic Annual Register* it is given as 16th April (Vol. ii, p. 127); while in the letters of Collins given in this volume it is given as 17th April. In his work "*The Decisive Battles of Jaipur*" Thakur Narendra Sinhji gives the date as Baisakh, Vidi 8, which is equivalent to 16th April (p. 268), hence this appears to be the correct date.

take refuge in Oudh, and hence soon after the fall of Ballu Tantya he addressed a letter to Collins asking him to arrange with the Governor General that no such asylum be given to Lakwa Dada there.

General Perron had already started from Koil on April 15th to go down to Rajputana by way of Delhi. By the time he reached the neighbourhood of Jaipur, Lakwa had already fled towards Ajmere, and now Perron came in to conclude a peace with the Jaipur Government. Thence he moved towards Jodhpur to punish the Maharaja for his friendship with Lakwa, and more specially to realize the tribute due from the Jodhpur State. At the outset the Maharaja refused to accede to the demands of Perron, but soon after this the French General was joined by Begam Somru and Shah Nizamuddin, and seeing the considerable force now under the command of Perron, the Maharaja was intimidated into acceptance of his terms.

Perron now returned to Koil. He was getting apprehensive of the growing power of George Thomas, and was anxious to safeguard his possessions in Hindustan from the invasion of the reported confederacy of Thomas, the Sikhs and their adherents. Soon after his return to Koil, Perron heard that following the defection of Lakwa from the service of Sindhia, Shambhu Nath, the diwan of Saharanpur, a faithful adherent of Lakwa, had collected large force and openly avowed his intention of invading Perron's *jaidad*. Perron did not consider the slight defeat inflicted by Captain Smith on Shambhu Nath as sufficient, and himself hurried to the battle-field. On 22nd July he took over the command, and in a short but decisive battle he completely defeated Shambhu Nath at Khatauli. Shambhu Nath fled away to the Sikh country, and Perron returned to Delhi.

Lakwa having fled away, Sindhia once again appointed Ambaji Ingle his *Naib* in Hindustan and ordered him to work in conjunction with Perron (May, 1800). He was also ordered to prevent the junction of Lakwa with the Bais, and crush the power of Lakwa before he could acquire any strength with the help of his partisans. Perron too asked Ambaji to proceed to Mewar, settle the affairs there, and then to move down to Ujjain with all promptness. Ambaji had accepted the *Naib-ship* of Hindustan, but he was neither prepared nor inclined to take an active part in the disturbances which were now likely to ensue. Sindhia had to warn Ambaji that if he any longer delayed punishing Lakwaji, some other chief would be appointed to the government of his territorial possessions in Hindustan. Along with other sardars of Sindhia, Ambaji Ingle was greatly

dissatisfied with the great authority then exercised by Perron in Hindustan, and he very much resented Perron's domineering attitude towards him.

### *European Military Adventurers.*

The dominance of European military adventurers and the jealous distrust of them among their Indian colleagues are the two most outstanding factors of the Indian politics and military movements of this period, and they are nowhere more clearly brought out than in the present volume. The years 1795 to 1804 can well be termed a golden age for the foreign mercenaries in India. Disrupting forces were sweeping the entire political world of India, which did not leave the Maratha Confederacy untouched. In that world of unceasing struggles and countless and ever-changing sets of Indian Princes, it was clearly evident that one decisive factor was the command that any Indian Prince could have over European military talent. Thus the European military adventurers began to dominate the politics of India by serving as free-lances, training Indian troops in European discipline and leading them into action for their Indian masters. The science of European war was carried into the heart of Hindustan, and the entire Indian military strategy and tactics were revolutionised.

It was Mahadji Sindhia who had engaged De Boigne and through him first raised and organised vast regularly disciplined armies as distinct from battalions in Hindustan. De Boigne thus created a new military system which was continued under his successor, Perron. Within five years of the battle of Kharda in every Maratha army the European military organisation overshadowed the older Indian methods.

The history of Hindustan under these free-lances is full of fascinating adventures and romantic personalities, but the employment of the European system in the Maratha armies brought its own complications too. The employment of Europeans as superior officers in the army on high salaries and their predominating influence in matters political and military made their Indian colleagues jealous of these foreigners. In the majority of the cases the policy and the actions of these European adventurers were governed by personal considerations rather than the good of the State which had employed them. The national jealousies among the European officers of different countries further complicated matters.

Thus it was that Ambaji Ingle seriously resented the dominant position of Perron in Hindustan, and even during the fateful days of the Second Maratha War, he strove to gain a final supremacy over Perron. George Thomas, the Irish sailor, refused to serve under Perron, a Frenchman, while it was a continued and deliberate effort of Perron to throw all the English officers out of the employ of Sindhia. Sutherland resented the fact that on the retirement of De Boigne his own claims to the supreme command of the army of Hindustan were superseded and Perron, a junior, succeeded De Boigne, and hence he unceasingly tried to oust his new Commander, Perron, while Perron was more anxious to crush George Thomas and secure the safety of his own *jaidad* and possessions in Hindustan than go to the rescue of Sindhia's forces which were struggling with the hordes of Jaswant Rao Holkar in Malwa.

*A brief resume of the events during the period from August  
3, 1800 to August 12, 1801.*

No papers are available in the Alienation Office, Poona, relating to the Residency at the court of Sindhia for one full year after August 3, 1800 ; transcripts of these were obtained from the Imperial Records Department, New Delhi. A brief summary of the important events in Hindustan during that period is, necessary to keep up the link of events and the more so to provide an exact back-ground for the fuller understanding of the events that follow.

“ *The Gardi ka waqt* ” in Malwa begins.—The defection of Lakwa Dada was the signal for the beginning of trouble in Malwa which constituted the centre of the domains of Sindhia. The anarchy, which thus began was to continue unabated for the next 18 years, and is reckoned in the annals of the province as one of the worst periods in the most tragic and unfortunate history of its transition and change. The tussle between Daulat Rao Sindhia and Jaswant Rao Holkar led to both parties sending hordes of fighting forces into each other's dominions and letting them loose on the defenceless people of the province. The discontented local soldiers gathered together with these roving predatory armies, and they continued their aggression even when the struggle between these two Princes had abated or subsided. These wandering hordes supported themselves by plunder, ordered administration broke down, while insecurity, desolation and devastation reigned over the land.

*The Last Phase of the Bais' Revolt.*—After the attempt made on their lives on January 14, 1800, the Bais despairing of any justice or reconciliation with Daulat Rao, once again took to the war-path, and their troops, now greatly increased, began to ravage the country around for subsistence. With the fall of Ballu they felt their own safety endangered, and they moved northwards with an idea of crossing into Malwa. Sindhia now became anxious to avoid the junction of the Bais with Lakwa; he sent his Deccani battalions after them, and specially instructed Ambaji to prevent this junction. Jaswant Rao Holkar's attitude towards the Bais was still undecided, and Sindhia sent instructions to him also to oppose the Bais, promising in return to support Jaswant Rao's claims against his legitimate brother Kashi Rao.

But the Bais continued to march northwards uninterrupted. They were near Burhanpur in June 1800, but on the approach of Sindhia's Deccani battalions they crossed the Narmada and hurried to Maheshwar. They reached Ujjain in the second week of October. They failed to raise any money in Ujjain, and hence were in great pecuniary distress. Lakwa now joined their cause, went to Udaipur and induced the Rana to advance a sum of two lakhs of rupees to the Bais. In the meanwhile Jaswant Rao Holkar, who was then at Indore, moved down to Ujjain to meet the Bais, and on November 1, he treacherously made a surprise attack on them in the hope of capturing their persons and handing them over to Sindhia. But the Bais escaped and joined Jaggu Bapu, an associate and nephew of Lakwa, and Holkar had to content himself with the plunder of their camp.

On their escape from Ujjain, the Bais moved on towards Chitor. Jaswant Rao, proposed a junction of his forces with those of Ambaji, for the purpose of crushing Lakwa, and at the same time suggested the necessity of prohibiting the farther advance of the Deccani battalions, which had reached Ujjain on November 16. Lakwa tried to win over these battalions to his own side, and when he failed to do so, he moved from the vicinity of Ujjain towards Raghogarh. Ambaji sent a detachment under his brother, Bala Rao, while Jaswant Rao's forces moved down against Lakwa. Lakwa defeated Jaswant Rao's army near Shahjahanpur on November 27, and three days later Bala Rao received a severe reverse at the hands of Durjan Sal Khichi, an associate of Lakwa. These successes cleared the path of Lakwa and the Bais, who now proceeded to Bundelkhand, where they were welcomed by the Raja of Datia. Forces of Sindhia under Perron and Ambaji Ingle were moving on to

oppose them, and they therefore entrenched themselves with the fort of Seondha<sup>4</sup> at their back. Earlier efforts by Pedron having failed to effect anything, Perron finally came down and fought a decisive battle on May 2, 1801. The old Raja of Datia was killed in the battle and Perron himself was wounded by a spear thrust. The losses on both sides were heavy, but the defeat of the rebels was decisive. Lakwa Dada was seriously wounded in the foot and escaped from the battlefield with great difficulty. The Bais too fled away on horse-back, and all the rebel troops dispersed.

The rebellion of the Bais practically ended with this defeat. Ambaji Ingle now negotiated with the Bais and finally early in 1802, they went over to the camp of Ambaji. Lakwa Dada's wound did not heal: from Seondha he retired to Mewar, and after spending some months at Jawad he went to Salumbar where he died on February 7, 1802.

*Daulat Rao leaves Poona.*—When the Bais crossed over into Malwa, their increasing power rudely awakened Sindhia to the danger to his dominions in Hindustan. The differences between Sindhia and the Peshwa had also been increasing in the meanwhile, hence Sindhia finally decided to leave Poona and on September 28, 1800 he sent Gopal Rao Bhau with some forces in advance to Hindustan. The Peshwa too deputed Nana Furandare to accompany Gopal Rao. Sindhia finally left Poona on October 29, 1800 and started for Hindustan. He had, however, not yet despaired of regaining his hold on the Peshwa and he left his father-in-law, Sharzaji Ghatge, behind him at Poona with five battalions of regular infantry and 10,000 horse with a view to keeping up his own influence at the Peshwa's court. Sindhia's northward march was as slow and dilatory as it could possibly be. He did not reach Burhanpur till the end of February, 1801, and then he wasted the next four or five months there doing nothing in particular.

*Sindhia's struggle with Jaswant Rao Holkar.*—The relations of Sindhia with Jaswant Rao Holkar had in no way improved in spite of the latter's treachery to the Bais at Ujjain. Seeing the star of Jaswant Rao in the ascendant, Kashi Rao too now began to negotiate for an understanding with Jaswant Rao. This was not a pleasant news for the Peshwa, who ordered Kashi Rao to go to Sindhia, an order which Kashi Rao refused to obey.

<sup>4</sup> The fort of Seondha is 52 m.n. of Jhansi. The letter published by Khare says "the battle was fought near Jhansi" (XIII, pp. 7106-7108). It is not unlikely that the writer of the letter in the Deccan did not exactly know the distance between Jhansi and Seondha.



The Peshwa, therefore, confiscated the whole of the *saranjam* granted to the Holkar family. Sindhia, was still anxious to retain friendly relations with Jaswant Rao, and hence once again early in 1801 he opened negotiations with Jaswant Rao promising to arrange for the restoration of the family *saranjam*, and agreeing to recognise him as the *de facto* ruler while Kashi Rao might be regarded as the ruler *de jure*. It was not unlikely that these negotiations might have ended happily, but just then an event in the distant Deccan once again threw Jaswant Rao into fury, and any peaceful settlement became an impossibility.

Jaswant Rao's natural brother Vithoji Holkar was carrying on depredations in the Deccan. In March 1801, the Peshwa contrived to get Vithoji captured, and on April 16th, Vithoji was barbarously and ignominiously executed at Poona by being tied to the foot of an intoxicated elephant. Jaswant Rao was furious on hearing of the cruel murder of his brother and vowed vengeance on all those whom he considered guilty of the atrocity. Jaswant Rao had been carrying on his depredations in Malwa; he had been to Khichiwada, thence to the Sironj side, and had finally come to the Sondhwada in May, 1801. His army was subsisting on plunder, while the Pindaris attached to his cause were rendering the entire country around "lampless". Sindhia's continued stay at Burhanpur gave Jaswant Rao sufficient time to collect all his forces and concentrate them in the neighbourhood of Ujjain with a view to plundering that city. Sindhia grew anxious for the safety of his capital, and in alarm sent Major Hessing with three of his battalions and one from Filoze's. Hessing rapidly moved towards Ujjain in spite of the rainy season which had now set in (June, 1802), but Sindhia's anxiety continued and he sent three more detachments one after another at intervals of three or four days. "There was thus", writes Compton, "an *echelle* of small isolated detachments, with twenty, thirty and forty miles between each, marching against an enemy whose entire strength was concentrated on the objective point. Jaswant Rao was too able a general to let such an opportunity slip, and at once prepared to attack the detachments in detail."

Hessing had reached Ujjain by the end of May; Holkar did not face him, but passing him fell upon MacIntyre who was then at Newari (14m. S.E.E. of Dewas), and compelled him to surrender. Thence Holkar pushed on towards Brownrigg who had effected a junction with Captain Gautier near Satwas, where he took up a very strong position. Brownrigg had

artillery with him and he defended himself with such resolution and judgement that all attacks of Jaswant Rao proved unavailing. Holkar now retired from Satwas, and then by way of Indore moved on to Ujjain. Amir Khan, an associate of Holkar was also coming to Holkar's aid at Ujjain, and in the battle of Ujjain, which now ensued, the combined forces of Holkar and Amir Khan utterly defeated Hessian's force (July 2, 1801). On the following day, Ujjain was given up to pillage, and the town was sacked with all the thoroughness and brutality that was possible. Holkar's victory at Ujjain enormously increased his prestige, and Sindhia, who was still at Burhanpur 'writhed in agony of vexation and rage'.

Sindhia had none of his experienced and trusted military officers with him, and hence he dared not risk crossing the Narmada in the face of Jaswant Rao Holkar's opposition. Sharzaji Rao Ghatge was the only possible one nearer at hand: Sindhia had already summoned him and so Sharzaji suddenly left Poona for Koregaon on June 28, 1801, and thence proceeded to join Sindhia. The successive defeats of his trained regular battalions under European officers made Sindhia most anxious, and he sent repeated calls to Perron in the north to come to his side for help. Thus early in August, 1801, Sindhia was still south of the Narmada, acting on the defensive and collecting more forces to oppose Jaswant Rao Holkar as soon as the rains would be over.

*Perron and affairs in North India.*—In spite of the repeated and urgent calls from Sindhia to go to Malwa, Perron did not start for there till April 15, 1802. Since the defeat of Shambhu Nath at Khatauli on July 22, 1800, Perron had been mainly busy with affairs in Northern India. In May, 1800, he had received instructions from Sindhia to join Ambaji in crushing the revolt of Lakwa Dada, but Perron asked Ambaji to move to Malwa in pursuit of Lakwa and himself returned to Koil. After his return from the campaign against Shambhu Nath, Perron continued to be at Delhi, watching the progress of events in Rajputana and Malwa. Early in November 1800, he started for Rajputana for the purpose of compelling Sawai Pratap Singh of Jaipur to pay without further evasion the balance of tribute still due from him. He was successful in exacting as much as two lakhs of rupees from the Jaipur State. The marriage of Sawai Pratap Singh was celebrated on November 26, and Perron then encamped near Jaipur, joined in the celebrations, after which he purposed to move down to Jodhpur, but the recent successes of the Bais

party in Malwa induced him to change his programme. He continued in Jaipur for some time and early in January 1801, started for Malwa to proceed against Lakwa and the Bais. On his way to Malwa he levied a heavy fine on the Raja of Uniara. News reached him at Uniara that Lakwa had left Malwa for Datia and had taken the Bais with him. Tired of his fruitless hunt, Perron decided to return to Koil. Ambaji was, however, instructed to continue his chase of the rebels. But the rebels were gaining strength, and two months later recognising the gravity of the situation, Perron himself went down to Seondha to personally conduct the operations there. In that short but brilliant campaign he utterly defeated the rebels on May 2, 1801, and dispersed their forces, and soon afterwards returned to Koil.

Perron was now at the zenith of his power, but he felt the canker of the rising fortune of George Thomas, the Irish adventurer, who had established himself at Hansi, and had carved out a state of his own. Perron had felt anxious about Thomas for some time past, and the successful ending of Thomas' campaign against the Satlaj States (1800-01) had increased Perron's anxiety all the more. Now having disposed of Lakwa Dada, he felt himself free to deal with this growing menace, and hence from Koil he proceeded to Delhi.

Thomas was at first in a yielding mood, and the negotiations had just started when Perron received the news of the disasters that Sindhia's forces had suffered at the hands of Jaswant Rao Holkar. Sindhia had asked Perron to proceed at once to the Deccan with two complete brigades and all the available cavalry. Perron felt that such an action at that stage would be tantamount to the evacuation of Hindustan, and his entire possessions and *jaidad* in the North would be defenceless, and hence might be altogether lost to him. He, therefore, found it altogether impossible to go himself or to send his brigades. Whatever may have been his exact motives, inspite of repeated calls from his master, Perron continued to be at Delhi negotiating with Thomas. But a peaceful settlement with Thomas was impossible, and in September there followed a war in which Perron completely overthrew Thomas. Only after he had defeated Thomas and destroyed his power did Perron feel himself free to concentrate his endeavours on re-establishing his interest at Sindhia's court. But by then the struggle between Sindhia and Jaswant Rao was over, and Sindhia was once more in Ujjain firmly established and guiding the affairs of his domain, while Jaswant Rao was again wandering about with his army, living

on plunder and planning schemes for retrieving the fallen fortunes of the house of Holkar.

*Relations of Sindhia with the English: 1800-1803.*

But Daulat Rao Sindhia's exultation over his success against Jaswant Rao, and Perron's satisfaction at the destruction of Thomas' power were to be short-lived. Before long the situation was to change and Sindhia was once again to face a fresh crisis in the affairs of the Maratha Confederacy. The successes of Holkar against the forces of the Peshwa and the consequent flight of Baji Rao from Poona ended in the conclusion of the Treaty of Bassein between the English and the Peshwa (December 31, 1802). Sindhia now did not know exactly what attitude he should take up with respect to this treaty, and during the months that followed he continued to be undecided, and he and the English drifted apart, and finally his indecision culminated in the Second Maratha War. There were, however, many factors which aggravated the differences between the English and Sindhia.

*Sindhia's attitude towards the Subsidiary Alliance between the English and the Peshwa.*—Lord Mornington assumed the high office of Governor-General on May 17, 1798, and within two months of his arrival he launched his famous policy of subsidiary alliances. The story of the efforts of Palmer to conclude such an alliance with the Peshwa has been unfolded in the fullest detail in Volume VI of this series. Sindhia who was then in Poona, looked with much disfavour at the project and it was his influence which prevailed on the Peshwa to make him reject the proposal in August 1799. Sindhia had felt that such an alliance would mean a check on his own usurpations at the court of the Peshwa. Moreover, he knew that one of the main stipulations in any such treaty would be the exclusion of the French and other Europeans from the territories under the Maratha Confederacy, and the fulfilment of any such terms would mean a death-blow to his military power. He was, therefore, apprehensive of views hostile to his power and interests in the negotiations of the British Government with the Courts of Hyderabad and Poona, and in September, 1800, before leaving for Hindustan he was anxious to be assured that no measures to his prejudice would be adopted by either of these States. When finally the news of the conclusion of a subsidiary alliance with Hyderabad was conveyed to Sindhia, he heard of it with "evident marks of dissatisfaction and vexation".

The question of concluding a subsidiary alliance with Sindhia was not taken up during his stay at Poona. The possibility of Zaman Shah's invasion of India did make the Governor General think of entering into a defensive engagement with Sindhia for the purpose of frustrating the threatened invasion. The Governor General further apprehended that Sindhia was eager to destroy the power of the Peshwa and the Nizam, and his success in either direction would help the enemies of the English. Palmer was, therefore, asked to inform Sindhia that the British forces would be employed for the protection and support of the authority of the Peshwa, and for keeping intact the authority and dominions of the Nizam. The Governor General also offered to Sindhia his mediation between him, the Peshwa and the Nizam for the purpose of establishing peace among these three Powers, but he insisted that any such negotiations could be opened only on Sindhia's return to his own territories in Hindustan.<sup>6</sup> In September, 1799, Palmer had expressed a belief that if Sindhia was offered a treaty similar to the one rejected by the Peshwa, he would readily accept it and would thus be won over to the English side. But a year later in October, 1800, when Palmer intimated to Sindhia the option the Governor General had reserved for Sindhia to become a member of the general alliance, Sindhia kept quiet and looked sullen.

*Collins' visit to Ujjain (February-May, 1802).*—When at long last Sindhia left Poona, and after a stay of some months at the city of Burhanpur, moved up to the southern bank of the Narmada, he remained encamped there (July-October, 1801). From there he addressed a request to the Governor General that Collins might be directed to join him and remain in his camp. The events which had lately occurred in Hindustan and the actual situation of the affairs of Sindhia, appeared to the Governor General to afford a more favourable opportunity than any before of persuading Sindhia to become a party in the proposed system of defensive alliances and reciprocal guarantees. The Governor General was then on a tour in Oudh and the province of Allahabad, and invited Collins to a meeting so that he could personally give him the necessary instructions. Collins joined the camp of the Governor General at Benares and after a stay of more than a week he took his leave and started for Fatehgarh from Mirzapur on 4th December, 1801.

<sup>6</sup>Martin, I, pp. 89-90, 120-122.

The Governor General availed himself of the request of Daulat Rao Sindhia for the attendance of the Resident in his camp, and directed Collins to wait on Sindhia. Collins accordingly left Fatehgarh on 21st December, 1801, and on 20th February 1802, reached Ujjain, where Sindhia was then encamped. He had been instructed to endeavour to obtain the accession of that Prince to the general defensive alliance; and the general conditions offered to Sindhia were :—

(1) To subsidise a considerable British force to be stationed within his dominions ;

(2) To cede in perpetual sovereignty to the Company, an extent of territory, the net produce of which shall be adequate to the charges of the force ;

(3) To admit the arbitration of the British Government in all disputes and differences between Sindhia and the Nizam, and eventually between Sindhia and other States of Hindustan ;

(4) To dismiss all the subjects of France then in his service, and to pledge himself never to entertain in his service persons of that nationality in future.

The Governor General was ready to modify or dispense with the other terms save the last one. In view of the possibility of a peace-treaty being concluded before long between England and France in Europe, Collins was asked to expedite the negotiations. But even before the Resident reached Ujjain the news of hostilities having ceased in Europe had reached Ujjain and the entire situation in respect to the last term had been materially altered.

The affairs of Sindhia had also undergone a complete change since the day when he had made the request for the presence of Collins in his camp. Now he was once again firmly established in Ujjain, and the future looked hopeful. Hence, when on reaching Ujjain Collins inquired the reasons for his being called to the court, he was told that it was merely to express Sindhia's sincere desire for preserving the relations of amity and friendship that had so far existed between the two Governments. The attitude of Sindhia and his ministers was thus from the first evasive, and as apparently the Maharaja was in no mood to entertain proposals to enter into any subsidiary alliance with the English, Collins did not deem it advisable to put forth the proposals of the Governor General. Increased sickness among his party and difficulties in securing the necessary provisions for the camp induced him to ask leave of Sindhia, and he left Ujjain on 10th May. Thus Collins returned to Fatehgarh without even having begun the negotiations.

*Collins' second Visit to Sindhia's court : (February-August, 1803).* But within five months of his return to Fatehgarh, Collins was once again instructed to be ready to proceed to the court of Sindhia. A revolution had occurred at the court of the Peshwa. Consequent on the defeat of the forces of the Peshwa and Sindhia in the battle of Poona, the Peshwa had fled away from Poona to Mahad and then towards the sea coast where he took an English ship and proceeded to Bassein. Just prior to this fateful battle of Poona, the negotiations between the Peshwa and Close, the English Resident at Poona, for a subsidiary alliance had once again commenced. Close too now hurried down to Bassein to continue and bring to a successful conclusion the negotiations commenced at Poona.

The Governor General knew that Daulat Rao would be anxious for the restoration of Baji Rao to the *masnad* of Poona, and hence he wanted to "obtain the co-operation and concert of Sindhia in the measure to be adopted for the re-establishment of the Peshwa's authority, and to combine with the negotiations for those purposes the intended proposal to Sindhia of admitting him to the benefit of the defensive alliance on terms similar to those which may be concluded with the Peshwa". Hence Collins was sent to the court of Sindhia, which he reached on 27th February 1803. Immediately on his approaching the camp, Sindhia was informed about a defensive treaty having been concluded between the British Government and the Peshwa. Now negotiations commenced and they continued without coming to any hopeful conclusion till 3rd August, 1803, when Collins finally left the camp of Sindhia. The letters printed in Section III of the present volume give us a full account of these negotiations. Sindhia all along continued to be vague, evasive and undecided, and one finds it tiring to see the same questions raised and similar doubts and difficulties expressed week after week in that very form and in those very words.

*Sindhia's attitude towards the Treaty of Bassein.*—No sooner did Sindhia hear of the defeat of the combined forces in the battle of Poona and of the flight of the Peshwa, than he decided to march to the Deccan to put down the power of Jaswant Rao Holkar and to restore order in the affairs of Poona. On November 24, 1802, he wrote to the Governor General asking for the co-operation of the English so that concerted action might be taken during the existing crisis of affairs in Poona. But Sindhia had failed to give any instantaneous help to the flying Peshwa, who was as much afraid of the ascendancy of Sindhia as he was of the domination of Holkar. Hence, even before Sindhia had

crossed the Narmada in his march towards the Deccan, the Peshwa had concluded the Treaty of Bassein, and now Collins came to Sindhia to concert with him the most effectual means of restoring and securing the tranquillity of the Deccan.

"In the moment of alarm", points out the Governor General, "which succeeded the signal success of Jaswant Rao Holkar, Daulat Rao Sindhia indirectly solicited the co-operation of the British Government, under the pretext of restoring the Peshwa's authority : he probably expected that the aid of a detachment of British troops would have insured his success against Holkar, without controlling his project of restoring his own ascendancy at Poona, on a more secure and extensive basis ; it now appears, that the active and powerful exertions employed by the British Government at the express solicitation of His Highness the Peshwa for His Highness's complete restoration to the *masnad* of Poona, were neither desired nor expected by Daulat Rao Sindhia. The actual re-establishment of the Peshwa in the government of Poona under the exclusive protection of the British power, and the conclusion of engagements calculated to secure to His Highness the due exercise of his legitimate authority on a permanent foundation deprived Daulat Rao Sindhia of every hope of accomplishing the objects of his ambition, injustice and rapacity, so long as that alliance should be successfully maintained. This statement of facts sufficiently explains the anxiety of Daulat Rao Sindhia to effect the subversion of an arrangement the justice and equity of which he was compelled to acknowledge, and for that Chieftain's unprovoked prosecution of hostile designs against the British Government and its allies."

Thus during the early months of the negotiations between Sindhia and Collins, there raged a controversy regarding the legality of the Treaty of Bassein. Sindhia even asserted that the Peshwa alone was not empowered to conclude any such engagement, and pointed out that in his capacity of the guarantor to the Treaty of Salbai he ought to have been consulted previous to the conclusion of any such engagement with the Peshwa. Collins put forth all the arguments that he could to oppose these contentions on the part of Sindhia, but apparently they carried no conviction with the latter. Collins further demanded an assurance from Sindhia that no attempt would be made by him to subvert the terms of the Treaty of Bassein, but Sindhia was not prepared to give any such undertaking without consulting Bhonsla who was then on his way to Sindhia's camp.



*Sindhia fails to persuade Jaswant Rao Holkar to join the Confederacy of Maratha Princes.*—Sindhia's distrust and opposition to the Treaty of Bassein had been steadily increasing. The military preparations and movements of the English in connection with the restoration of the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona had aroused in Sindhia a fear of danger to his own dominions and power. He was not unaware of his own military weakness; further he was not slow in perceiving the disruptive forces existing within his own dominions. Hence in this hour of danger and crisis he looked around for friends and allies.

Jaswant Rao Holkar had on the other hand failed to capture the person of Baji Rao. It was also clear that his efforts to raise a new Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona had ended in nothing. Therefore, Jaswant Rao became anxious for an accommodation of his differences with Baji Rao. He was all the more eager for a settlement with Sindhia. In December 1802, Jaswant Rao sought Ambaji's mediation for a settlement of his affairs with Sindhia, and Sindhia readily permitted Ambaji to take up this role. Messengers from Holkar came to Ambaji and talks continued, but the negotiations through him did not advance very far. Holkar had made repeated applications to Close and the Nizam also for securing the arbitration of the English. The question was referred by both to Collins, who had also received instructions to acquaint Sindhia with the willing offer of the Governor General to mediate and in concert with Sindhia to find out the means of effecting an amicable adjustment of the differences between him and Jaswant Rao. But Sindhia was not disposed to avail himself of the offer, and did not take any notice of it when it was made on 8th April.

While Sindhia was particular in avoiding the mediation of the English, he was trying his utmost to secure Bhonsla as an ally and an arbitrator. On February 26th, 1803, he deputed his confidential minister, Jadu Rao Bhaskar, to the court of Bhonsla. Holkar too had sent his agent to Bhonsla to seek his mediation. "After the maturest deliberations, therefore", wrote Bhonsla to the Governor General, "I conceived the expediency of concerting in person with Sindhia and Holkar, the means of re-establishing cordiality and friendship between them, and at the urgent desire and entreaty of Daulat Rao Sindhia, as well as at the persevering and instant sollicitation of Jadu Rao Bhaskar, I entered my tents on 24th of Zil-hijja (17th April)."

Sindhia's attitude towards the English had continued to be anything but friendly. He had greatly resented the march of the English armies into Maratha territories to aid the

restoration of the Peshwa. He himself was thinking of marching down to the Deccan with a big army, if not for anything else at least to meet the Peshwa at Poona. But all this was not to the liking of the English. These negotiations, frantic political activity, and above all Sindhia's own attitude, gave birth to all sorts of rumours. War was being talked of in the camp of Sindhia. It was asserted that a peace had been made between Sindhia and Jaswant Rao Holkar. It was further reported that a confederacy was being established between Sindhia, Jaswant Rao Holkar and Bhonsla with a view to invading the territories of the allies of the English, the Nizam or the Peshwa, or subverting the fulfilment of the Treaty of Basscin. All this gave rise to a good deal of suspicion, and in his conference of May 28 with Sindhia, Collins asked for an unreserved explanation from Sindhia respecting the intention of the proposed interview between Sindhia and Bhonsla, and relating to the nature of the engagement entered into by both these Princes with Jaswant Rao Holkar. The reply of Sindhia gave the first warning of the coming war. He told Collins that immediately after his interview with Bhonsla, Collins would be informed whether it would be peace or war.

But no settlement had yet been arrived at between Sindhia and Holkar, and Sindhia was anxious not to precipitate hostilities till he had secured allies. Thus now followed a period of continued evasion and delay on the part of Sindhia, which was prolonged even after his meeting with Bhonsla.

Bhonsla had first suggested that Sindhia, himself and Jaswant Rao should all meet on the bank of the Ganga-Godavari, and bring about a final settlement of the affairs of the Maratha Empire. He had even begun his march with that view, but later he changed his mind and on June 3, 1803, he arrived within one march of Sindhia's camp, and that very day to conciliate Jaswant Rao Holkar his nephew Khande Rao was delivered over to Bhonsla by Sindhia. As an additional gesture of friendliness, the city of Indore was also delivered over to the agents of Jaswant Rao. Now followed a series of conferences between Sindhia and Bhonsla. Collins was pressing for a final answer; he sent his Munshi and got into touch with Bhonsla also, but without any particular gain. In disgust on June 19 Collins wanted permission to leave Sindhia's camp three days later and to proceed to Aurangabad, and asked for an escort to accompany him. But on repeated requests from Sindhia he postponed his departure, and once again Collins began to press for an answer.

What exactly was passing behind the screen at the series of private conferences between Sindhia and Bhonsla could not

possibly be known to Collins and his associates, and in the absence of any other contemporary reliable evidence nothing can be said with certainty. On the basis of later events, however, this can be asserted that while Jaswant Rao Holkar was waiting on the bank of the Tapti, negotiations for a settlement of the differences between Sindhia and Holkar were being carried on by Bhonsla with Sindhia and his ministers. At long last a settlement was made, and on July 9, 1803, Jaswant Rao's agents at the camp of Bhonsla took charge of Khande Rao Holkar and started for Jaswant Rao's camp. They also carried with them Sindhia's orders to his own officers in Malwa to deliver the territories of Holkar's family to Jaswant Rao's agents. When these agents reached Jaswant Rao's camp three days later, they were greeted with great rejoicings and celebrations. Bhonsla and Sindhia fondly hoped that as a result of this settlement Holkar too would come down and join them in their confederacy, but Holkar was in no mood to join his former enemy. Hence, while Sindhia and Bhonsla continued to be near Jalgaon evading and delaying a final answer to Collins, Jaswant Rao was moving towards his ancestral capital, Maheshwar, to re-establish his own rule in his family possessions.

*The French Officers in Sindhia's army.*—The one problem that had been engaging the most serious attention of the Governor General during these years was that of the exclusion of French officers from the army of Sindhia. The Governor General knew full well that at a time when England and France were at war, these officers and particularly General Perron, who was in supreme command of Sindhia's army in Hindustan, could not possibly remain in any way friendly to the English; on the contrary they would be a source of real danger to the English power in India. With the fall of Tipu and the signing of the Treaty of Subsidiary Alliance with the Nizam, any possible danger from the French in the Deccan was gone. But Sindhia's French officers continued to be a standing menace to the English during the years covered by the present volume.

Even as early as July 1799, Lord Wellesley had declared to Palmer, "The whole system of my policy is an earnest of my anxiety to expel the French from the service of Sindhia." During the years of Sindhia's continued stay at Poona, it was an anxious duty of the Resident there to watch and as far as possible to check the possible increase in the influence of the French at the court of Poona. Hence, when the opportunity did arise, and the Governor-General put forth his proposals for a subsidiary

alliance with Sindhia, he insisted on the term for the exclusion of French Officers from the employ of Sindhia.

"The disturbed state of the Maratha Empire", wrote the Governor-General early in 1803, "would have afforded an advantageous opportunity to the government of France for the successful prosecution of its favourite subject of establishing a dominion within the Peninsula of Hindustan, by the introduction of a military force, for the purpose of aiding the cause of one of the contending parties; and the views of France would have been materially favoured by the strength and efficiency of Monsieur Perron's force, established with a great territorial dominion extending towards the left bank of the Indus through the Punjab and comprehending Agra, Delhi and a large portion of the Doab of the Jamuna and the Ganges, on the most vulnerable part of our north-west frontier of Hindustan, and holding the person and nominal authority of the unfortunate Shah Alam (the deposed Mughal Emperor) in the most abject and degrading subjection." Hence, when the possibility of a war with Sindhia did arise, the destruction of this French State of Perron became the first and foremost objective of Lord Lake the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in the north.

### *Weaknesses of Sindhia's power exposed.*

The letters printed in the present volume clearly bring out the weaknesses of Sindhia's power and thus readily explain the causes of his defeat in the war that followed. In his correspondence Collins put down all the information that could possibly be of any use against Sindhia or any other Maratha power. He has clearly brought out how opposite interests clashed and internal dissensions made it impossible for Sindhia to derive any pecuniary gains from his vast dominions in Hindustan. The obvious necessity of Sindhia's timely checking the over-grown power and independent views of his ambitious sardars was also duly noted by Collins. The rebellion of Lakwa Dada, the opposition by the Bais and the defeats inflicted by Jaswant Rao on Sindhia, only went to complicate the situation. The prepondering influence of Perron and his European officers in the army proved one more cause of the internal weakness of Sindhia's power.

The organisation and administration of Sindhia's dominions was anything but settled and regular. His control over his own sardars, governors and military officers was very lax and could not be effectively exercised in times of necessity. Sindhia's feudatories and other subordinate local powers accepted or

rejected Sindhia's rule according to his power to enforce his own orders. The tributes could not be regularly realised without a military expedition, and very often the cost of the expedition was much greater than the actual gains. The loyalty of all those living on the frontier of Sindhia's dominions wavered with the relative power of the States that surrounded them. And these possible weaknesses were duly exploited by the English with devastating effect in the ensuing war.

The lack of co-ordination and of systematic organisation vitiated even the military department of Sindhia, where this state of things was most undesirable. Sindhia failed to take advantage of the long delay in the declaration of war, which could have been most usefully utilised in organising a definite plan of war. He was more anxious to gain allies than to plan fully any campaign in the forthcoming war. The English had on the other hand effected even in June all judicious arrangements for the disposition of their troops to meet every possible exigency. Major-General Wellesley was entrusted with the general control of all political and military affairs in Hindustan and the Deccan connected with the impending negotiations and with the movements of the army. During the period of negotiation in the months of June and July, Major-General Wellesley managed to dispose the forces under his control in such a way as to give confidence to the Governor-General to assert that, "in the event of hostilities between the British Government and the confederated chieftains, we (the English) shall enter upon the contest under every circumstance of advantage arising from the season of the year, from the superiority of our troops, and from the relative position of the British forces". The last moment efforts of Sindhia and Bhonsla to secure a withdrawal of the British forces from the position they had thus taken, only went to exhibit the weakness of their own military power and position as felt by the Maratha Princes.

Thirdly, a close study of the affairs of Sindhia during the years covered by the present volume, clearly points to an utter lack of a long-sighted and bold policy on his part in respect to the other Maratha Princes. Sindhia's changing attitude towards Jaswant Rao Holkar proved to be his undoing, because but for the continued successful opposition to him on the part of Jaswant Rao Holkar the history of the Maratha Empire might possibly have been different.

Finally, one cannot help admitting that the weak and vacillating nature of the Peshwa too indirectly precipitated the Second Maratha War. Even after the conclusion of the Treaty of

Bassein, he continued to be wavering in his loyalties and unsteady in his alliances. In spite of all the professions on his part regarding the great respect in which he held Sindhia, Baji Rao was most anxious to see that the terms of the Treaty of Bassein were not disclosed to Sindhia. He continued to be in close touch with Sindhia, and one cannot say whether the changed attitude of Balaji Kunjar after his stay for some time in Sindhia's camp was due to the similarity of their views, or to Balaji's special friendship with Sindhia. This agent of the Peshwa came in to dissolve the supposed confederacy of the Maratha Princes, but stayed on to support a war against the English. Again, the attitude of the Peshwa in respect of Sindhia's proposed visit to Poona was not all that could be desired. It is not unlikely that Sindhia was not wholly incorrect when he asserted that he was duly invited by the Peshwa to Poona. It may be a distant guess, but reading between the lines one cannot help believing that the Peshwa fondly hoped that in any struggle between Sindhia and the English the former would be successful and would thus be able to stop the final fulfilment of the terms of the Treaty of Bassein; on the other hand, it seems not unlikely that Sindhia too hoped that the dissatisfied Peshwa would rise against the English as soon as war was declared between him and the English. Little did either of them know the correct situation of the other.

Collins finally left the camp of Sindhia in the early morning of August 3, 1803, and three days later on behalf of the English Major-General Arthur Wellesley declared war on Sindhia and Bhonsla. The English entered the war with the profound satisfaction that every measure had been adopted which the judgment of the Governor-General-in-Council could devise for the successful prosecution of the war and the easy accomplishment of the political arrangements that were to follow the successful termination of the forthcoming clash of arms.

RAGHUBIR SINH



# CHRONOLOGY.

1800 January	1	.. Wazir Ali is embarked under guard from Fatehgarh for Calcutta.
"	4	.. Sharzaji Rao Ghatge released and restored to favour.
"	14	.. An attempt is made to assassinate the Sindhia's ladies : Yamuna Bai wounded.
"		.. Fort of Jahazpur reduced by Lakwa ; Lakwa gets Rs. 5 lakha from Udaipur.
March	13	.. Nana Fadnis dies.
"		.. Quarrel between Sindhia and the Peshwa.
"		.. Zaman Shah sends <i>khilat</i> to Ranjit Singh of Lahore.
April	15	.. Perron starts for Rajputana <i>via</i> Delhi from Koil.
"	16	.. Battle of Malpura : Lakwa Dada defeats Maharaja Sawai Partab Singh of Jaipur.
"	25	.. Durbar held by Sindhia at Vanwadi in the Deccan to celebrate the victory of Malpura : Ballu Tantya arrested there in the Durbar.
May	5	.. Lakwa leaves the Maratha camp and flies towards Ajmir.
"		.. Perron makes peace with Jaipur.
"		.. Ambaji appointed Naib of Hindustan and ordered to work in conjunction with Perron.
"		.. Zaman Shah deposed ; succeeded by his brother Mahmud Shah.
June		.. The Bais start for North.
"		.. Yusuf Ali sent by Collins on behalf of the English to the court of Ranjit Singh with presents.
"	12	.. Inamullah presents nuptial gifts to the Maharaja of Jaipur on behalf of the English.
"	24	.. Balaji Kunjar appointed minister by the Peshwa.
July	22	.. Perron defeats Shambhu Nath of Saharanpur.
August		.. Thomas back in Hansi ; meets Yusuf Ali <i>en route</i> Lahore.
"		.. Pohlman besieges and takes the fort of Jahazpur.
September	28	.. Gopal Rao Bhau Chitnis sent by Sindhia to North in advance. Nana Purandare to accompany him on behalf of the Peshwa.
October	12	.. Treaty of Subsidiary Alliance concluded between the Nizam and the English.
"	29	.. Daulat Rao finally leaves Poona, leaving Sharzaji Chatge behind.
November	1	.. Ballu Tantya dies in confinement at Ahmedabad.
"	"	.. Jaswant Rao Holkar makes a surprise attack upon the Bais at Ujjain and plunders their camp. The Bais escape and take refuge with Jaggu Bapu.
"	26	.. Nuptial of Maharaja Partab Singh of Jaipur. Perron joins the celebrations at Jaipur.
"	27	.. Lakwa Dada defeats Jaswant Rao's troops near Shahjahanpur (Malwa).
"	30	.. Durjan Sal, adherent of Lakwa, defeats Bala Rao, brother of Ambaji.
December		.. Brownrigg's attack on Ajmere fails.



1801	January		Perron starts from Jaipur and returns to Koil.
	End of February		Sindhia reaches Burhanpur.
	April	16	Vithoji Holkar cruelly crushed to death under orders from the Peshwa.
	May	8	Bourquien takes Ajmere by bribery.
	June	2	Perron defeats the Bais, Lakwa Dada, and their associates at Séondha, Lakwa Dada wounded. The Bais and Lakwa escape.
	"	15	Kashi Rao Holkar was given back the <i>saranjam</i> , which had been confiscated before.
	"	..	The Battle of Newari. MacIntyre lays down arms to Jaswant Rao Holkar.
	"	..	Brownrigg's defence against Holkar's forces near Satwas.
	"	28	.. Sharzaji Rao Ghatge suddenly left Poona for Koregaon, and proceeded to join Daulat Rao Sindhia, then at Burhanpur.
	June	28	} Perron at Delhi, negotiating peaceful settlement with Thomas.
	to August	19	
	July	2	.. The Battle of Ujjain. Hessing completely defeated by the forces of Holkar. Ujjain plundered.
	August	19	.. Thomas and Perron meet and exchange visits.
	"	20	.. Sharzaji Ghatge joins Sindhia in his camp.
27 to 30	September	..	Battle of Georgegarh between Thomas and the forces of Perron.
	October	1	.. Preliminary treaty between England and France signed.
	"	1	.. Sharzaji Ghatge and Sutherland join army under Brownrigg then at Unchawad.
	"	14	.. The Battle of Indore. Sindhia's forces completely defeat Holkar's forces. Holkar flies to Kushalgarh.
	"	19	.. Daulat Rao Sindhia crosses the Narmada, and goes over to the northern bank.
	"	29	.. The Peshwa once again confiscates whole of the Holkar's <i>saranjam</i> .
	October	30	.. Holkar defeats Sharzaji Rao Ghatge, who now retires from Indore to Ujjain.
	November	10	.. Thomas retires to Hansi from Georgegarh.
	December	4	.. Collins, who had joined the camp of the Governor General at Benares in the last week of November, took leave and started for Fatchgarh from Mirzapur.
	"	21	.. Collins starts from Fatchgarh for the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia.
	"	29	.. George Thomas evacuates Hansi.
1802	January	1	.. George Thomas starts for Anupshahar <i>en route</i> Bengal.
	February	3	.. Salutes fired at Ujjain to celebrate the news of the ratification of preliminaries of peace between England and France.
	"	7	.. Lakwa Dada dies at Salumbar (Mewar).
	"	20	.. Collins reaches Ujjain.
	"	21	.. Salutes fired at Ujjain at the reconciliation of Sindhia with the Bais, who repaired to Ambaji Ingle's camp. Evening :—Collins meets Sindhia.
	"	24	.. Sindhia visits the camp of Collins.
	"	..	.. Sharzaji Ghatge leaves the city of Ujjain in disgust for the increased influence of Jadu Rao Bhaskar ; but after some weeks returns back on reconciliation.

1802	February	27	.. Collins' private audience with Sindhia.
	End of February		.. Perron starts from Koil for Ujjain.
	March	20	.. Perron reaches Ujjain.
	"	25	.. The Treaty of Amiens concluded : Peace established between England and France.
	"	29	.. Perron's interview with Sindhia.
	April		.. Jaswant Rao Holkar crosses the Narmada and goes south to his army in Khandesh.
	"	17	.. Metcalfe joins Collins at Ujjain.
	"	23	.. Perron marches off from Ujjain for Koil with the Second Brigade.
	May	10	.. Collins leaves the camp of Sindhia and starts for Fatehgarh.
	June	23	.. Collins reaches Fatehgarh.
	July	29	.. Separate treaty concluded by the English with the Gaikwad.
	August		.. Jaswant Rao Holkar's vakils reach Poona to explain situation to the Peshwa.
	"	22	.. George Thomas dies at Bahrampur.
	September		.. Amir Khan and other associates and commanders of Holkar start raids in the Deccan.
	October	7	.. The Peshwa's forces defeated by Holkar's forces at Merta, 2 miles from Baramati.
	"	25	.. The Battle of Poona : Holkar inflicts a severe defeat upon the forces of the Peshwa at Poona. The Peshwa flies to the west coast.
	November	16	.. Sindhia writes to Perron asking him to come down immediately.
	November-December		.. Perron marches to Jaipur, exacts fines from there, and retires to Koil.
	December	1	.. Daulat Rao Sindhia starts from Ujjain to proceed to Poona.
	"	21	.. Collins starts from Fatehgarh for Sindhia's camp.
	"	31	.. The Treaty of Bassein concluded between the Peshwa and the English.
1803	January	13	.. Sindhia takes Maheshwar.
	February	4	.. Sindhia crosses the Narmada.
	"		.. Perron sends 4th Brigade under Chev. Dudrenec to join Sindhia then going southwards.
	"		.. Perron sends in his resignation to Sindhia, which Sindhia refuses to accept.
	"		.. Sindhia writes to Raja Sukhrudra of Hyderabad, asking for the chauth for the districts of Bhir, Parenda, etc., then under the Nizam.
	"	23	.. Sindhia arrives in the vicinity of Burhanpur.
	"	25	.. Jaswant Rao Holkar deputed Vithoji Ingle and one more person to Sindhia to negotiate peace with him.
	"	27	.. Collins reaches in the vicinity of Sindhia's camp, then near Burhanpur.
	March	3	.. The Governor General appoints Josiah Webbe as the Resident to the court of Bhonsle, and Major Malcolm as the Resident at Mysore.
	"		.. Holkar goes to Jejuri.
	"	10	.. The Treaty of Bassein ratified.
	"	13	.. Bhonsle's agents at Poona having been recalled reach Nagpur. Agents of the Peshwa and Jaswant Rao Holkar too reach Nagpur.
	"	15	.. Holkar presents his terms for an accommodation with Sindhia, and seeks British mediation.
	"	16	.. Balaji Kunjar deputed by the Peshwa to go to Sindhia to effect reconciliation with Holkar.

- 1803 March 20 .. Jadu Rao Bhaskar, Sindhia's minister deputed to Bhonsle, reaches Nagpur.
- " 24 .. Collins meets Sindhia. When apprized of the conclusion of the treaty of defensive alliance between the English and the Peshwa, Sindhia said, he had no intention to obstruct the completion of that arrangement.
- " .. Khande Rao Holkar released from confinement; staying at Asirgarh.
- March—April .. Ambaji Ingle writes to the Bundelkhand Chiefs to be ready for war against the English.
- April 8 .. Collins meets Sindhia.
- " 17 .. Khande Rao Holkar visits Sindhia; residing in Ambaji Ingle's camp. Bhonsle enters tents from Nagpur for going down to Sindhia.
- " 24 .. Kashi Rao in the camp of Ambaji; visited by Sindhia.
- " .. Holkar's attack on Aurangabad; promised 11 lakhs of rupees.
- May 4 .. Sindhia marches 10 miles south from Burhanpur and encamps there.
- " .. Balaji Kunjar reaches Sindhia's camp.
- " 13 .. Baji Rao reinstated at Poona.  
The Nizam seriously ill; dies on August 6, 1803.
- " 18 .. War between France and England renewed.
- " .. Balaji Kunjar visits Kashi Rao at Burhanpur.
- " 23 .. Major Kirkpatrick, resident at Hyderabad, ordered by the Governor General to go to the court of Bhonsle as Resident, leaving his secretary, Russell, behind in charge of the Residency at Hyderabad.
- " 25 .. Major Kirkpatrick instructed not to go himself, due to the Nizam's illness, but to send Russell instead.
- " 28 .. Holkar's troops despoil Sindhia's palaces at Jamgaon and Shrigonda. Collins meets Sindhia and communicates to him the Treaty of Bassein. Sindhia tells Collins that only after meeting Bhonsle he would be able to say whether it would be peace or war.
- May 31 .. Balaji Kunjar reported to be treacherous to the English cause.
- June 3 .. Raghuji Bhonsle arrived at Malkapur and encamps there.
- " .. Khande Rao Holkar delivered to Raghuji Bhonsle, and the city of Indore to Jawant Rao's allies.
- " 4 .. Sindhia and Bhonsle meet at Bodawad near Malkapur.
- " .. Maj.-General Wellesley marches from Poona with the main body of forces under his command.
- " 5 .. Collins sends his Munshi, Mirza Bakar Khan, with a note to Bhonsle.
- " 8 .. Bhonsle visits Sindhia.
- " 14 .. Col. Stevenson asked by Maj.-Gen. A. Wellesley to move up to Aurangabad. Maj.-Gen. Wellesley himself now 20 miles south of Ahmadnagar.
- " 16 .. Sindhia goes to Bhonsle's camp and has secret consultations with Bhonsle.
- " 19 .. Collins asks for permission and escort to leave Sindhia's camp.
- " 25 .. Collins meets Bhonsle.
- " 26 .. Bourguien asked to withdraw the 3rd Brigade from the Punjab and to station at Panipat. Hessian ordered to concentrate at Sikandra. Maj.-Gen. A. Wellesley given extra-ordinary powers to direct negotiations with Sindhia and Bhonsle.
- " 26-27 .. Sindhia and Bhonsle move their camps nearer to each other.
- June 27 .. Collins appointed the Resident to the court of Bhonsle.
- July 1 .. Collins meets Sindhia.

- 1803 July 4 .. Collins meets Sindhia and Bhonsle. Both give assurances of their friendship with the English, but evade a definite answer on the question of withdrawing their armies from their present position.
- .. 6 .. Jaswant Rao Holkar on the bank of Tapti waiting for any fresh proposals from Bhonsle.
- .. 9 .. Jaswant Rao Holkar's agents take charge of Khande Rao Holkar, and receive orders for the delivery of the Holkar's territories to Jaswant Rao's agents, and proceed with them towards Jaswant Rao's camp. Kashi Rao Holkar dissatisfied with the concerted partition of the Holkar's territories.
- .. 9 .. Sindhia and Bhonsle change the ground of their camps for procuring forage.
- ly July Forces of Ambaji, commanded by James Shepherd, start for Hindustan, to be stationed between Jhansi and Kalpi.
- July 12 Khande Rao Holkar and the orders for delivery of the Holkar's territories, reach Jaswant Rao's camp : great celebrations.
- .. 16 Collins meets Sindhia.
- .. 17 Dudrenec and Brownrigg leave Sindhia's camp with forces to march down to Jodhpur and Jaipur.
- .. 18 Col. Stevenson, encamped 20 miles north of Aurangabad, instructed to move down to Ajanta Ghat as soon as Collins leaves Sindhia's camp.
- .. 22 Krishnaji Bhawani, the Peshwa's agent, reaches Sindhia's camp, then near Jalgaon.
- .. 26 Collins meets Sindhia, who promises to give him the final reply on July 28.
- .. 27 .. The Governor General sends to Lord Lake detailed instructions, plan of attack and objects to be gained on the N. W. frontier of Hindustan if war with Sindhia is declared.
- .. 29 .. Maj.-Gen. A. Welleseley instructs Collins to leave Sindhia's camp immediately if the two Maratha Princes do not separate and retire to their own dominions. Collins meets Sindhia. Bhonsle absent from the conference. No satisfactory reply having been yet given, Collins informs Sindhia of his decision to leave his camp on the following day. Collins' *pesh-khema* and baggage already sent in advance.
- .. 30 .. Heavy rains detain Collins in Sindhia's camp.
- .. 31 .. After continued requests Collins visits Bhonsle. Heavy rains continue.
- August 3 .. Collins leaves the camp of Sindhia and arrives at Tondapur.
- .. 6 .. The British declare war against Sindhia and Bhonsle. Col. Stevenson ordered to advance against them.



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# SINDHIA'S AFFAIRS, 1800—1803

## SECTION 1

### *North-Indian Events (Jan.—Dec. 1800)*

**No. 1**—Sindhia asks Collins that as Perron has been granted leave for six months to go to Lucknow for treatment, he be given the necessary passport.

*Translation of a letter from Daulat Rao Sindhia to Lieutenant-Colonel John Collins : forwarded to the Governor General by Collins on 16th January 1800.*

The brave, noble and conquering General Perron Bahadur of undoubted attachment, preserver of the order of government, and warrior of the state, in consequence of a complaint of pains in his limbs, and the inefficacy of the medicine administered by his own physicians to remove them, has now with extreme urgency requested five or six months' leave of absence for the purpose of repairing to Lucknow for the cure of his malady. Since the concerns of both states are one and the same and no sort of difference exists between them, the pen of friendship, therefore, addresses you to apprise the right honourable the Governor General of this, that General Perron has obtained leave of absence for five or six months and is proceeding to Lucknow for medical assistance ; that he will continue there for the period allowed him, receive the aid of the English faculty and again return to his cantonments at Koil, and require an order to the persons in authority there for no one to interrupt the General either in going or coming or offer any molestation to him or his return to his own station either after the expiration or before it of his leave of absence.

Conformably with this, however, warmly you may apply for and procure the permission of the right hon'ble the Governor General on this point, which will be proper, consistent, and becoming the union and friendship subsisting between both states.



**No. 2—**Collins informs the Governor General about the movements of Zaman Shah, Lakwa Dada, Ambaji, George Thomas and others.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 31st January 1800.*

My intelligence from Peshawar states that Zaman Shah alarmed at the hostile preparations of Baba Ali Khan, has sent the son of one of his Sardars named Muded Khan to that subah for reinforcements, which when collected were to proceed to Kandahar by the route of Derajat with all possible expedition. The *kasids* who brought this news, further report that when they left Peshawar, which was on the 18th of last December, the Nazim of the province had assembled ten thousand horse and was daily augmenting this force by new levies. These men likewise mention the arrival of the impostor Gulam Kadir Khan at Shahabad, a city appertaining to the Sikhs and situated nearly one hundred *kos* [111 miles] to the north-west of Delhi.

The troops of Lakwaji assisted by Mr. Pohlman's brigade have reduced the strong fortress of Jahazpur in the district of Shahpura. During the siege Lakwa lost two European officers and had five hundred sepoy killed and wounded. This Chieftain has lately received five lakhs of rupees from the Rana of Udaipur on account of the revenues of Mewar by which assistance he has been enabled to satisfy his army. It is generally supposed that he will now move towards Jaipur for the purpose of levying contributions in that country and my advices from Jainagar mention that Raja Partab Singh is raising forces with the determination of resisting any aggression on the part of Lakwa Dada. Hakim Shewair has not, as yet, been restored to favour.

Ambaji Rao is still at Kotah ; his brother, Balla, offered to join him at that place with fifteen thousand horse and foot, but Ambaji declined this tender on the pretext of inability to furnish money for the payment of so large a force. As the character and conduct of this Chief were formerly marked by a firmness which ill accords with his present timidity, I am led to surmise that he looks forward to a speedy revolution in Sindhia's Government and his own consequent restoration to the Naibship of Hindustan.

My private agent at Delhi informs me that Mr. George Thomas has invaded the territories of Saheb Singh, the Raja of Patiala. This Raja, it seems, has seized and confined the person of his own sister, Sahib Kaur, a lady who possesses considerable influence among the Sikh Sardars.

It is not unlikely that Mr. Thomas may have been invited to co-operate with her party.

Jaswant Rao Holkar is arrived at Maheshwar and avows an intention of shortly crossing the Nerbada in force for the purpose of opposing the troops sent by the Peshwa and Daulat Rao Sindhia in support of the interests of Kashi Rao Holkar.

Lakwa Dada has not yet replied to the remonstrance that I made sometime since against the protection which he had afforded to Izzat Ali, but my agent, who resides in his camp, writes me that I shall receive an answer in a day or two. However, I confess that I am totally at a loss to conjecture what excuse this Chief can possibly frame for a conduct so very impolitic, indecorous, and unjustifiable.

**No. 3—Collins describes the jealousy and rivalry between Lakwa Dada and the house of Ambaji. He also notes the release and restoration of Khush-hali Ram Bohra, once the chief minister of the Jaipur State.**

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 22nd February 1800.*

Lakwa Dada has, at length given me assurances that Izzat Ali, the base accomplice of the assassin Vazir Ali, shall be expelled from the Maratha camp. But this Chief by no means seems inclined to imprison Izzat Ali. The truth is, Lakwa feels much hurt that the Jaipur Raja should have complied with Your Lordship's instances for the surrender of the person of Vazir Ali to the British Government.

Several letters written by Ambaji's son to the principal sardars in Lakwa's service have been intercepted, the extent of these letters being to persuade the officers of Lakwa's to desert his interests. This Chieftain has addressed a strong remonstrance on the subject to Ambaji, plainly accusing him of treacherous designs and which he ascribes to the present fluctuating state of affairs at Poona.

Raja Partab Singh lately applied to Mr. George Thomas for the aid of two battalions of native infantry and Mr. Thomas consented to grant him assistance, provided the Raja would assign four parganas for the

payment of those corps. But the Maharaja whose avarice is even stronger than his fears, does not appear disposed to accede to the foregoing terms.

Khush-hali Ram Bohra has been released from the fortress of Amber, where he had been five years confined, on paying one lakh and twenty-five thousand rupees to the Jaipur Raja. The Bohra had formerly the principal direction of affairs at the Jaipur Durbar, but was disgraced on the suspicion of being too intimately connected in interests with the late Mahadji Sindhia. Partab Singh, however, is now desirous of availing himself of the experience of the Bohra, whose superior talents are generally known and acknowledged. Indeed had this minister's advice been properly regarded the Rajput Chieftains would long since have confederated for the purpose of opposing the ambitious views of the Marathas.

The troops of Mr. George Thomas have evacuated the territories of the Patiala Raja after committing great depredations, and are now employed in the siege of Sersah, a fort belonging to the Pathans (situated in the Zilla of Ballogestan [?] Registan) and in levying contributions on the talukdars in that quarter.

Ambaji still continues at Kotah where he is detained by the pressing instances of Zalim Singh. His wakil at Sindhia's Durbar has apprized him that Ballu Tantia means to give the European Officers in Daulat Rao's service an assignment to the amount of fourteen lakhs of rupees on the revenues of Gwalior.

**No. 4**—Collins describes at length the rivalry between the different officers of Sindhia and hints at the possibility of a revolution in Sindhia's Government.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatchgarh, 10th March 1800.*

My native agent at Koil informs me that Sindhia has repeated his injunctions for the surrender of the fortresses of Delhi, Agra, and Aligarh to Lakwa Dada, but that Mr. Perron means to evade compliance therewith.

Although I cannot vouch for the authenticity of this intelligence, yet it appears entitled to some degree of credit, on account of the advances recently made by Mr. Perron, with a view of renewing his connection with Ambaji Rao whom he has pressinglly invited to a conference to be held at Dholpur for the declared purpose of settling matters of importance.

Should this interview take place, it may eventually be productive of another revolution in Sindhia's Government. Here, I have, therefore, instructed my native agent to ascertain, if possible, the immediate objects of this proposed meeting, as well as the effect which it is likely to create in the sentiments of Lakwa Dada.

Ambaji is now at Narwar ; he appears well-disposed to assume any plausible pretext for recommencing hostilities with the Datia Raja, the firm adherent and friend of Lakwa Dada, whilst the latter Chief meditates an attack on the dominions of the Jaipur Raja, who is protected by Mr. Perron, in consideration of Partab Singh's assurance that he will shortly discharge the balance of tribute due to Sindhia, provided Lakwa Dada commits no depredations in his country.

The opposite interests, and ill-timed dissensions of Sindhia's officers, must effectually preclude even a hope of his deriving the smallest pecuniary aid from his possessions in Hindustan. I see the least probability of any permanent settlement by which good order might be restored, whilst the Maharaja shall remain in the Deccan. Indeed, his presence in this quarter seems indispensably requisite, not only on account of the distracted state of his finances, but also from the obvious necessity of timely checking the overgrown power and independent views of his ambitious Sardars.

My advices from Malwa mention an advantage obtained in the Suba of Khandesh by Jaswant Rao's Pindaris over a body of troops in the employ of his brother Kashi Rao Holkar, in which engagement the Pindaris captured about four hundred horses. My agent there also informs me, that Dharam Rao, Ambaji's Dewan is arrived at Maheshwar, supposed to be charged with instructions to engage Jaswant Rao to act in concert with Ambaji, for the purpose of counter-acting the designs of Balloo Tantia. If this be the real intent of the Diwan's mission, its success is by no means improbable, Tantia having of late warmly espoused the interests of Kashi Rao Holkar.

My private agent at Delhi informs me that Gulam Kadir, assisted by two Sikh Sardars, has collected about seven thousand banditti, with which he is ravaging the districts of Bhoonga Singh, the Chief of Thanesar. Notwithstanding the late defeat of this Pathan, and although his present force be in respect contemptible, yet he seems to have excited

apprehensions in the Maratha Government, Imam Bakhsh Khan, Begum Sumroo and Sholiporam-ud-din having formed a junction of their respective troops near the city of Saharanpur, in order to oppose the return of the imposter to the Deab.

I have the honour to enclose the copy and translate of a letter from Syed Raza Khan.

**No. 4A—Enclosure.**

*Translation of a copy of a letter from Syed Raza Khan to Lieutenant-Colonel John Collins, dated Delhi, 3rd March 1800.*

A person named Khajeh Bhavel brought a letter from Zaman Shah to the Raja of Jaipur, and having obtained the Raja's *arzi* and *nazar* of gold mohars, arrived at Shahjahanabad on his return with them to Zaman Shah. Having a house in this city he tarried here sometime. Through his acquaintance with Mohemmed Ikram Merdeh he one day gained admission into the fort, and staying in this person's house entertained hopes of visiting the heir-apparent. Meantime the *killedar* informed of this, sent to desire the Khajeh's attendance, who immediately quit the fort and concealed himself. The *killedar* then seized and confined several persons who associated with him but afterward released them at the intercession of Shah Newar Khan.

People say that this Khajeh Bhavel brought a horse and a letter from Zaman Shah to the heir-apparent, and that the former was sent to the *amil* of Kot Kassim (the Prince's *jagir*) who presented it as from himself to Mirza Akbar Shah.

**No. 5**

*Translate of an article of intelligence obtained from the letters of the Nazims of Multan and Bahawalpur, dated the 14th of February 1800, and communicated to Lieutenant-Colonel John Collins by Mir Yusuf Ali Khan on the 7th March 1800.*

Advices from vakils with Zaman Shah in Kandahar mention, that the army of Baba Ali Khan Keger, Prince of Iran, was in possession of the sacred Meshid and that the descendants of Nadir Shah betook themselves to flight and are shortly expected in the camp of Zaman Shah, who having collected his *Kusshoons* and artillery will march towards Herat on the 4th of February 1800.

**No. 6—**The Governor General is informed about troop movements in Jaipur, Jodhpur, and those of various Maratha Princes and their officers, as well as the developments in the Punjab and the Frontier province.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 21st March 1800.*

Advices from Jaipur, dated the 16th instant, mention that Raja Partab Singh had repaired to his tents having previously nominated his son governor of the city, during his own absence. The avowed object of the Raja in taking the field is to repel any aggression which the Marathas may commit on the Jaipur territories. His present force consists of twelve thousand cavalry, twelve thousand infantry, and forty pieces of ordnance; and reinforcements were shortly expected, many Thakurs having promised to join the standard of their Prince.

Accounts from Jodhpur state that Raja Bhim Singh had likewise erected his standard on the 3rd of this month and was collecting forces for the purpose of forming a junction with the Jaipur army.

My agent with Ambaji assures me that Mr. Perron certainly attached his interest [to] the Rajas of Jaipur and Bharatpur, and that he was also endeavouring to conciliate friendship [of] Ambaji in the hope of obtaining through the means of this Chief the support of Nawab Ali Bahadur, Jaswant Rao Holkar and Mr. G. Thomas. Should this intelligence prove true I shall have little doubt but that Mr. Perron has received private instructions from Daulat Rao Sindhia to restrain the increasing power and influence of Lakwa Dada.

My private agent who resides in the camp of Ali Bahadur, apprizes me that this Nawab had declared an intention of moving in a few days, towards Bharatpur, and advices from Maheshwar state that Jaswant Rao Holkar was preparing to march with all his forces in order to join Ambaji. This information, if it can be relied on, and the hostile preparations of the Rajput Princes in some measure confirm intelligence contained in the preceding paragraph.

Mr. Perron lately visited Agra. After remaining there two days, for the purpose of inspecting the condition of the fortress, he returned by dak, to his cantonments to Koil.

The fort of Rampura, which some years since was given over to the Holkar family by Raja Partab Singh; has been surrendered to Lakwa Dada on honourable terms for the garrison.

It appears by the Akhbars that Gulam Mohamed Khan, the late Rampur Chief, had invited Lakwaji to a confidential interview. The Maratha, however, evaded an immediate compliance with the proposal of the Rohila, under a pretext of being occupied in arranging affairs of importance.

Two *kasids* in my employ who left Peshawar on the 15th of last February, bring intelligence respecting Zaman Shah, similar to that which I had the honor to transmit to Your Lordship in my letter of the 13th current. In addition to which they assess it to be a report generally credited that Muraud Bey, Prince of Turan, had engaged to co-operate with Zaman Shah in the war against Baba Ali Khan. The *kasids* further relate that Gurdatt Singh and a party of his Sikhs, in conjunction with Gulam Kadir and two thousand Rohilas, had commenced hostilities against another Sikh Chief named Bhag Singh, and were laying the country waste between Boorceah and Shahabad to the extent of nearly forty *kos* around. These men also affirm that the Sikhs plundered them, as well of their personal property as of the letters which they had in charge for my private agent at Delhi.

**No. 7—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the efforts of Zaman Shah to form an alliance with Ranjit Singh, and the various possible developments in the affairs of the Maratha Princes and generals.**

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 5th April 1800.*

My private agent at Delhi informs me that Zaman Shah is endeavouring to attach to his interests Ranjit Singh, the usurper of Lahore, who has lately received a rich *khilat* from the Durrani Prince. Hence it would appear that the Shah has by no means relinquished his designs on Hindustan, though they are at present suspended on account of the hostile preparations of his enemy, the King of Iran.

Should Zaman Shah succeed in conciliating the friendship of Ranjit Singh or in reconciling him to his views, his next attempt on Hindustan may not terminate so disgracefully as the last, since this Sikh Chief possesses considerable power, as well as influence in the Punjab, and seems ambitious of acquiring still greater authority therein, which

he may flatter himself with the hope of obtaining by means of a close connection.

Raja Pratap Singh has advanced nearly twelve *kos* from Jaipur in order to meet Lakwa Dada, though the tardy movements of the Raja indicate no strong inclination on his part to proceed to extremities; but his language still continues firm, and I am rather disposed to believe that he will not decline an engagement should Lakwa seek it, in which event there can be little doubt but that Partab Singh..... supported by the Rajputs, who have ever been distinguished for their gallantry in action.

It is possible, however, that matters may yet be amicably adjusted between the Marathas and Rajputs by the mediation of Mr. Perron, who appears to be [anxious] to effect a reconciliation between the contending parties. I understand this officer received Sindhia's orders to prevent the levying any exactions on the Jaipur dominions beyond the fixed or customary tribute, it being necessary in the present situation of affairs [at] Poona that he should preserve a good understanding with the Princes [of] Hindustan.

The Maharaja who seems extremely apprehensive that the death of Nana will eventually involve him in serious contentions with the Peshwa's Government, has likewise strictly enjoined both Lakwa [and] Ambaji [to] refrain from all aggressions against his tributaries in this quarter, but these Chieftains seldom evince the least deference to their Prince whenever his orders militate with their own rapacious projects.

Contrary to his engagements Ambaji has recommenced hostilities against the Raja of Datia, whilst on the other hand Lakwa Dada has issued sanads empowering Durjun Sal the Girassia, and the Raja of Karauli, to take possession of several forts that have long been subject to the authority of Ambaji. The latter Chief alarmed and exasperated at this conduct, has again pressingly invited Mr. George Thomas to return to his service, offering fifty thousand rupees per month and an advance of one lakh, in order to enable this officer to commence his march towards Datia without delay.

Some recent disturbances at Delhi excited, most probably, by the intrigues of Mr. Perron's enemies at that Durbar, were speedily quelled by a detachment which that officer sent from Koil for this purpose.



**No. 8—**Collins reports the defeat of the Jaipur Raja at the hands of Sindhia's generals at Malpura.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 21st April 1800.*

I this day received dispatches from my native agents with Raja Partab Singh and Lakwa Dada containing intelligence of the following purport.

On the morning of the 17th instant a general action took place between the Marathas and Rajputs near Malpura, which was warmly contested for nearly two hours. At the first onset the Jaipur cavalry broke the troops commanded by Bapuji Sindhia and drove them a *kos* from the field. When Lakwaji was apprized of this disaster he immediately sent a strong detachment to support Bapuji and prevent the return of the enemy's horse. At the same time he ordered Messers Pohlman and Dudrence to advance with their corps of regular infantry and to attack the main body of Partab Singh's army. This service was gallantly and successfull performed by those officers, who after a sharp conflict dispersed the Rajputs and took possession of their camp.

The loss, in killed and wounded, on both sides, is said to be considerable and it appears that fifty pieces of ordnance together with all the tents and baggage of the Jaipur troops, have fallen into the hands of the Marathas.

Previous to the total defeat of the Rajput army and whilst a possibility of restoring the battle still remained, Partab Singh formed the resolution of making a vigorous charge on Mr. Pohlman's brigade with a thousand select cavalry, but he was dissuaded from carrying this spirited design into execution by this Dewan Rai Chand, whose timid counsels prevailed on the Raja to abandon his army and fly to Jaipur with a most disgraceful expedition.

Mr. Perron marched from Koil with two battalions of sepoys on the 15th of this month. Before his departure from thence he informed me of his intention to proceed to Jaipur in the hope of having it in his power to restore tranquillity in that distracted country.

I understand Ambaji is also on his way to Jainagar and that Nawab Ali Bahadur is arrived within a few *kos* of the city.

Advices from Lahore mention that Ranjit Singh has lately delivered up to Zaman Shah's wakil fifteen pieces of artillery, which the Durrani Prince lost in his retreat from the Punjab last year by the overflowing of the Chenab. My intelligence from thence further states that several Sikh Sardars, alarmed at the growing power of the usurper of Lahore, were assembling troops in the vicinity of Amritsar for the purpose of checking his ambitious designs.

**No. 8A.—Note on the battle of Malpura, 1800.**

The following account of the battle is given in a letter written by an officer of the Second Brigade of Sindhia's army who was present, from the camp at Hindoli, on 20th April, 1800 :—" The Jaipur Raja commanded his army in person, consisting of 18 battalions, 1,000 Ruhelas, 2,000 Nagas, upwards of 15,000 cavalry, and 56 guns, and when drawn up in order of battle extended upwards of a *kos*, greatly out-flanking the Maratha army commanded by Lakwa Dada, which consisted of the Second Brigade commanded by Major Pohlman, the brigade of the Chevalier Dudrenec, two battalions of Lakwas Dada, and one battalion of the Kotah Raja. These corps are represented not to have exceeded half the enemy's numbers, which are said to have amounted to 65,000 men. Lakwa Dada advanced towards the enemy on the 15th; but night coming on, he waited the return of the morning. Early on the morning of the 16th, the enemy, perceiving Lakwa Dada in motion, commenced a heavy cannonade.—Major Pohlman on this ordered the Second Brigade to advance with the great guns, but to reserve their fire till they were close up to the enemy. These orders being punctually obeyed, the artillery did great execution. This brigade, however, it seems, was in great danger; being ill-supported and pressed by eight times their number. A judicious movement of Major Pohlman, by forming into a square his six battalions, of which the brigade consisted, prevented the enemy's cavalry from surrounding them, which was attempted without success; and the brigade, by an incessant and well-directed fire of the artillery, finally succeeded in coming to close action with the enemy, of whom great numbers, immediately gave way; the main body, however, kept their ground for an hour and a half longer, during which the action is said to have been very severe on both sides.

" The enemy at last fled in all directions leaving their camp standing and all their guns and baggage, as a reward for the brave and constancy of Major Pohlman's brigade, to whom chiefly the glory of the day appears to be due. The guns taken were twenty-four, 18, 8 and 6-pounders. The enemy had taken two guns from the brigade of Dudrenec, which Major Pohlman also recovered, and restored to the Chevalier. The Raja fled in the greatest consternation, and did not halt till he reached Jaipur, a distance of 30 *kos*, twenty-four hours after the action; his loss in men was so great, that no correct estimate of it had been made when our

letters were written ; that of Lakwa Dada was comparatively trifling, and Major Pohlman's brigade were agreeably surprised at finding that they had come off with the loss of not above 75 killed and wounded, while that of Dudrenec amounted to 70 killed, and 250 wounded."\*

**No. 9**—The Governor General is informed that peace negotiations between the Marathas and the Jaipur Raja have not yet commenced. It is further reported that Nawab Sadat Ali Khan of Oudh has been addressed by the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam as the Vazir of the Mughal Empire.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 30th April 1800.*

I have the honour to transmit for Your Lordship's information the copy and translate (No. 1) of a letter, which I this day received from Lakwa Dada.

My advices from Jaipur state that the Marathas are committing great devastations in the territory of Raja Partab Singh, whose defeat has not as yet so far subdued his spirit as to induce any overture on his part for the purpose of conciliating his enemies with a view towards peace.

I am, however, inclined to hope that Mr. Perron who is arrived on the Jaipur frontier, will shortly have it in his power, and it seems to be his desire, to effect a reconciliation between the Rajputs and Marathas, and on terms not so disadvantageous to Partab Singh as might reasonably be expected after the recent and decisive victory obtained by Lakwa Dada.

Since my last address of the 21st instant His Majesty Shah Alam and Prince Mirza Akbar have transmitted *shokahs* through me to the Nawab of Oudh in which His Excellency is formally addressed as Vazir of the Empire.

This being the first occasion, I understand, on which the King of Delhi has thought proper to recognize the Nawab Sadat Ali Khan as his Vazir, I considered it necessary to notice the circumstances to Your Lordship and likewise to forward the copy and translate of a letter (No. 2) from Syed Reza Khan explanatory of the reasons that induced Shah Alam to confer this designation on His Excellency.

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\*[From the *Asiatic Annual Register* for 1800. Supplement to Chronicle, pp. 127-128.]

In view of the above two contemporary accounts of the battle, the narrative of James Skinner, as printed in J. Baillie Fraser's *Military Memoir of Lt.-Col. James Skinner* (1851), Vol. I, pp. 144-154, which was dictated to his friend long afterwards, must be heavily discounted as regards the numbers and tactics, and some allowance should also be made for the brag of the young subaltern of 22.

## No. 9A—Enclosure.

*Translation of a letter from Lakwa Dada Bahadur to Lieut.-  
Col. J. Collins, dated the 27th Ziqada, 22nd April 1800.*

At this juncture Maharaja Partab Singh Bahadur in consequence of the representation of evil-disposed persons, pertinaciously urging the restitution of Tonk and Rampura, which have long and publicly continued and been confirmed in the collection and under the government of the Holkar Bahadur, pitched his camp outside Jainagar, and marched without intermission to oppose me. Conformably with instructions from His Excellency, my lord the Maharaja Alijah Bahadur, may he ever prosper, which accord with the intentions of the noble Kashi Rao Holkar Bahadur for dispossessing his *amil* Kirpal Singh Sikh, and investing Mr. Dudrenec Bahadur, I directed the troops of the Sarkar to besiege Rampura, which I took and delivered over to the latter gentleman. The concerns of the Sarkars of Maharaja Alijah Bahadur, and of the Holkar Bahadur are, therefore, one and the same ; and having thus enforced my orders, how can these ancient possessions, now recovered, be transferred to the Raja ? Notwithstanding that every apology and explanation was offered on my part regarding this matter, they yet made no impression on the mind of the Raja ; and when his army drew near me, I retreated two marches towards Sambhar, willingly submitting to the reproach of having declined an engagement, yet, he followed me and came still nearer. General Perron addressed letters to Raja on this subject, that it was fruitless to be obstinate on the occasion, that the sardars of the *Jhery Fauj* having retreated before him and he still persisting, the General could not understand how it could accord with his interest, and that he advised him to march into the country of Shekhavati as a measure decidedly for his advantage. But I deputed Saleh Harsukh Rai, agent with me, on the part of the General to explain matters to the Raja, and he in conjunction with the Raja's own ministers laid the real state of the case with all its consequences before him. This had no sort of effect with him and he came to an action. At length the engagement commenced on both sides and the soldiers of the *Chery Fauj* reflecting on the disgrace of having retreated, together with the stubbornness of the Raja, exposed themselves to every peril and evinced their regard for the prosperity of the Sarkar, and gave a proof of the just sense of their duty. A hot cannonade from the flaming artillery of both sides continued until 12 o'clock, when they closed and encountered with swords. Then victory saluted us through the favour of heaven and good fortune of his foe-subduing Excellency Maharaja Alijah Bahadur, and the heroes of the conquering army, thus victorious, offered up their thanks for this blessing of God. The Rajaji after this disgraceful overthrow took the road to Jaipur together with a few other persons. His army

routed, dispersed on all sides, and a small number of them returned to Jainagar. All his guns and camp-equipage fell into our hands. The conquering army which was preparing to pursue the Raja was entirely prevented, and not a man belonging to it was suffered to follow him, after the victory, beyond the field of battle. It was never my intention to fight him, but pride, obstinacy, and the machinations of evil-designing people impelled the Raja to hostilities and such as has appeared, was the will of heaven in regard to the event. You are doubtless acquainted with all this through your daily papers of intelligence. As you cordially wish well to both Sarkars, the concerns of which are the same, I send you this by way of congratulation, and I felicitate you on the occasion. Continue always the favour of keeping me in your remembrance by your letters. Nearly seven hundred men belonging to the Sarkar were wounded and slain, and probably above two thousand on the part of the Raja. I have been particular with the pen of friendship in order to give you information.

At present the General Bahadur is approaching to meet me. I will hereafter write you the other accounts of the Jaipur negotiation and of the quarters around that may happen.

**No. 9B—Enclosure.**

*Translation of a letter from Syed Reza Khan to Lieut.-Colonel John Collins, dated 24th Ziqad, 19th April 1800.*

His Majesty has received *arzis* from the Sardars of the *Chery Fauj* requesting for two *shokahs* addressed to the Resident of Lucknow and to Almas Ali Khan in favour of the Betoor Brahmins, between whom some differences have taken place. "Good God", exclaimed His Majesty, "these Sardars oppose my sending a *shokah* to the Vazir of the Empire, yet require me to write one to Almas Ali Khan, who is the Vazir's servant". On the succeeding day the Mir Munshi brought these *shokahs* to His Majesty, and his seal was affixed to them; but he observed with displeasure to the Mir Munshi, "If your dread of the Subedar (Shah Nizamuddin) be so great, bring me the Vazir of the Empire's *arzi*, and I myself with my own hand will pen a *shokah* in reply to it, or will get the heir-apparent to write [for] me." The Mir Munshi answered that he was bound to obey His Majesty's orders. "If you were so" returned the king, "why for so many days have you deferred preparing the *shokah* in acknowledgement of the receipt of the *Id-nazar* according to my commands?" The Mir Munshi said he would then get it ready and bring it to him on the following day. When he brought it, and after it received the Royal Seal, His Majesty called me to him and in a whisper observed, "I know not whether the Vazir of the Empire be displeased because I have not sent him a *shokah*;

the omission is a mere matter of necessity, as the Governor (Shah Nizam-uddin) is restrained by the orders of the Southern Sardars, otherwise I do not at all covet the Peshwa ; Sadat Ali Khan's reward from me for dutiful services is not such as to be regarded in a worldly light. Most assuredly I esteemed the late Shujah-ud-daula as my real brother and I look upon Sadat Ali Khan as my beloved son. While he remained with me at Allahabad, I showed more partiality and kindness for him than for the late Asaf-ud-daula, and, I entertain the same still. In short it can give me no pleasure to occasion uneasiness to the Vazir of the Empire. Let what will happen. I have caused a royal *shokah* to be written to him which is equivalent to a sanad of vizarat. Do you, however, with my good wishes to the Colonel, who is my real friend and from whom nothing relating to me is a secret, address him from me that I have now directed a royal *shokah*, which is the same as a sanad of vizarat and contains the words, " Vazir of the Empire ", to be written and sent to you and that you will acquaint the Resident of Lucknow desiring him in my name to communicate in a suitable manner to the Vazir of the Empire, that as in his first *arzi* accompanying the *nazar* of 1,000 *asharfis* which I received from him, he said, he would testify his obedience to me beyond that of his deceased brother Asaf-ud-daula, to recollect it, and efface the impression he might have received in consequence of the *shokah* in answer to that *arzi* having been withheld, and to maintain a public correspondence with me. It is my desire to consult the gratification of my son, and to give satisfaction to the English. It will, therefore, be proper that no delay or excuse occur in the transmission of the *Khasa* allowance, that it may monthly and opportunately reach me. The Resident at Lucknow obtaining and ratifying this agreement with the Vazir of the Empire will present the *shokah* to him ; and let the Colonel likewise in his own letter to the Vazir write to a similar effect. His Majesty assures himself that Colonel Collins will use in his behalf every means that he shall judge beneficial and proper. Having thus delivered himself the king gave me the royal *shokah*, which is hereby enclosed and I have stated to you without adding or diminishing every particular I had from his own lips.

No. 10—The Governor General is informed about the defection of Lakwa Dada from the side of Sindhia and the return of Dadrenec to Rampura in Malwa.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 11th May 1800.*

I have this day received information from my native agent with the *Chery Fauj*, that on the morning of the 5th instant Lakwa Dada and

Jaggu Bapu accompanied by several Sardars in their interests, quitted the Maratha camp, with their families and fled towards Ajmere.

It seems this precipitate retreat was occasioned by intelligence received express from Poona of the confinement of Lakwa's patron, and friend, Balloo Tantia, by order of Daulat Rao Sindhia, an event of which no doubt Your Lordship has been apprized by the Resident at the Court of the Peshwa.

It is extremely probable I think that the present defection of Lakwaji and Jaggu Bapu will be followed by a renewal of civil dissensions in Sindhia's territorial possessions in Hindustan, and it is not unlikely, I conceive, but that the Jaipur Raja may derive considerable advantages therefrom. I have not, however, as yet learnt what effect this news has produced at the durbar of Partab Singh.

Mr. Dudrenec has withdrawn his corps from the *Chery Fauj* and is now on his march back to Rampura in consequence, as he pretends, of orders to that effect from Jaswant Rao Holkar. But it is suspected that this officer retired in disgust at the treatment which he had lately experienced from Mr. Pohlman, who evinced some intention of depriving Holkar's troops of the guns and colours taken by them from the Rajput army in the engagement of the 17th ultimo.

The Jaipur papers of a recent date mentioned that Bakhshi Mitha Lal had repaired to Mr. Perron's camp for the purpose of negotiating a peace between the Rajputs and Marathas. They further state that Partab Singh had tendered the sole command of his artillery to Hakim Xavier with a *jagir* of inferior value to the one of which he was lately deprived. At the same time it appears that the Hakim has declined acceptance of these offers in consideration of the inadequacy of the income to support the expenses necessarily attendant on so important a trust.

**No. 11**—The Governor General is informed of the peace between Jaipur and Sindhia, and of the appointment of Ambaji Ingle as the Naib of Sindhia in Hindustan in place of Lakwa Dada.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 18th May 1800.*

Bakhshi Mitha Lal, the Jaipur Vakil, and Mr. Perron have adjusted the recent differences between their respective governments on the

following terms, viz. Raja Partab Singh engages to pay Daulat Rao Sindhia nine *lakhs* of rupees, six within one month and the remaining three *lakhs* at the expiration of six months from the date of that agreement. Whenever the Jaipur Durbar have given security for the punctual discharge of this money the Maratha army is to evacuate the Rajput territories.

Ambaji Rao has received a *shokah* from Daulat Rao Sindhia appointing him to the Naibship of his government in this quarter and directing him to conduct the duties thereof in conjunction with Mr. Perron.

Though Ambaji did not declare distrust yet in accepting it, he expressed a hope that the Maharaja would not again involve him in difficulties by reinstating his enemy Lakwaji in the office of Naib at any future period.

Lakwa Dada is at present encamped near Maun Khundee, bordering on the province of Ajmere, with six thousand followers and twenty-six pieces of artillery. This Chief publicly avows an intention of committing depredations in Sindhia's possessions in Hindustan, should the authority which he lately exercised therein be conferred on any other person.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy and translate of articles of intelligence which I this day received from my private agent at Delhi.

No. 11A—Enclosure.

*Intelligence from the camp of Zaman Shah brought by Kasids arrived from Amritsar on the 16th Zilhijj, 11th May 1800.*

Zaman Shah put to death at Kandahar several Sardars who were suspected of a design to assassinate his grand Vazir Wafadar Khan. Of the number of those concerned in the plot, one, the son of Amir Khan deceased, who was Subadar of Kashmir, found means to escape and is now in the neighbourhood of Peshawar. After the execution of the Sardars, Zaman Shah proceeded towards Herat, and continued sometimes in that quarter for the purpose of settling his affairs there. He has fixed on the 10th February, 15th of Shawal, for his return to Kandahar in consequence of the disturbance occasioned by Baba Khan appearing inconsiderable; but it seems that he will yet stay sometime longer there. It is the Shah's intention to move back towards Kabul and Peshawar when he shall have satisfied himself with regard to Baba Khan Keger. As yet, however, there is no certainty of the preparations of Baba Khan for the conquest of Khorasan. Zaman Shah's brother, Mahmud Shah, is in those parts in much distress.



*Intelligence from the Punjab.*

Saheb Singh, the son of Gujar Singh, and Gheet Singh, the son of Lehna Singh, together with Nizam-ud-din Khan Kasuriah have assembled at Amritsar, and are encamped 7 or 8 kos from it for the purpose of opposing Ranjit Singh, Subadar of Lahore; and Ranjit Singh has advanced and encamped some kos from Lahore in order to meet them. Skirmishes take place between them. Ever since Ranjit Singh obtained the *khilat* of the Shah, he announces himself as Chief of Lahore on the part of Zaman Shah.

The Subadar of Kashmir has disbanded every Afghan of his own tribe and is entertaining in their stead people from Punjab and Hindustan. He has fixed the monthly pay of the cavalry at 15 rupees a man, and for the infantry at 6 rupees each. It appears he either distrusts his own tribe or has some project in contemplation.

**No. 12**—Collins forwards to the Governor General two news-letters containing the information of the murder of Zaman Shah and the troubles at Kabul.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 20th May 1800.*

I have the honour to enclose copies and translate of two papers of intelligence, which I this instant received from my private agent at Delhi.

**No. 12A**—Enclosure.

*Copy of a note from Lala Harprasad to Yusuf Ali Khan, dated the evening of the 14th of May 1800 at Delhi.*

The news today is that a letter from Bhola Nath, jeweller at Amritsar, is received, which states that the Durrani and Sher Mahomed Khan had assassinated Zaman Shah and his Vazir Wafadar Khan, and has proclaimed Mahmud Shah, Zaman Shah's brother, in his stead.

**No. 12B—Enclosure.**

*Copy of a note from Lala Harprasad of Delhi to Yusuf Ali Khan, dated the morning of the 14th of May 1800.*

A letter is received from Amritsar of the 7th Zilhijj, 2nd May, which states that the Durrani assassinated the Subadar of Kabul, and that five or six princes took to flight. The Shah is in the city of Kandahar, and the Durrani are outside it in commotion. This letter also stated that the Sikhs have been quarrelling with each other, and that the Bhangis seem to be victorious; the Afghans of Kassur are on their side and Ranjit Singh is unsuccessful.

**No. 13—**Collins hastens to forward news-letters contradicting the news of Zaman Shah's murder and adds that he deems this news-letter to be more reliable than the previous ones.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 22nd May 1800.*

I do myself the honour to enclose copies and translates of articles of intelligence No. 1 and 2, the former of which was brought from Lahore by *kasids* in my employ.

As this news contradicts that of Lala Harprashad respecting the assassination of Zaman Shah, and as I believe the intelligence communicated by my own agent is mostly to be relied on, I lose not a moment in transmitting the same for Your Lordship's information.

**No. 13A—Enclosure.**

*Substance of a letter written from Peshawar to his friends by Mir Abdul Karim on the 3rd of Zilhijj, 28th April.*

The Prince Abbas, obliging on some pretence or other Jan Nissar Khan, Subadar of Kabul, to visit him, put him to death on the 15th Zilqad, 10th April 1800. The Royal *ghulams*, who were above in the citadel, being informed of this came down quickly and seized and imprisoned the Prince; they then placed on the *masnad* of the Subadary of Kabul, the brother of Jan Nissar Khan. Of the eight Sardars who formerly suffered execution Amin-ul-mulk is one; which event happened on the 12th Zilqad, 7th of April 1800. This account is written from the report of Ghulam Rasul, one of the Royal *harkaras*.

**No. 13B—Enclosure.**

*Copy of a letter from Yusuf Ali Khan to Hussen Ali Khan, dated  
17th May 1800.*

I learn by letters of undoubted authority from Peshawar and Amritsar that Zaman Shah was in tranquillity after having put to death eight or nine refractory Durrani Sardars who were in rebellion against him, that for the present Baba Khan Kager on account of disturbance in his own country does not design to enter Khorasan this year, and that, therefore, Zaman Shah intends to return to Kabul and Peshawar in consequence of which, news of his march from Kandahar to Kabul was current.

**No. 14—**Collins describes the moves and counter-moves of Ambaji, Lakwa Dada and Jaswant Rao Holkar; he further notes the restoration of Hakim Xavier De Silva to the favour of the Jaipur Raja.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 30th May 1800.*

Ambaji has received pressing orders from Daulat Rao Sindhia to prevent the junction of the Bais with Lakwa Dada. At the same time the Maharaja strictly enjoins him to exert his utmost endeavors in conjunction with Mr. Perron to crush the power of Lakwaji before he acquires greater strength by the exertions of his partisans.

The disaffected Maratha Sardars have sent their families with their effects to Jodhpur, and it appears that Lakwa has entered into most solemn engagements with the vakils of Raja Bhim Singh to defend the Jodhpur dominions should they be invaded by Mr. Perron, either on account of arrears of tribute or any other pretext. The vakils on their part have promised the co-operation of their master's army with the troops of Lakwaji in the events of his being attacked by any of Sindhia's officers. In consequence of the foregoing treaty Lakwa consented to remit two lakhs of rupees due on a balance of tribute from Raja Bhim Singh to Daulat Rao Sindhia.

Jaswant Rao Holkar has lately directed Mr. Dudrenec to obey all orders that he may hereafter receive from Ambaji, or Mr. Perron, as the government of the Maharaja in Hindustan was now entrusted to their management. However, it is by no means certain that Holkar is seriously

inclined to support the authority of Sindhia in the present crisis, since he is at this very moment carrying on a private negotiation with Lakwa Dada and it is also well known that Mr. Dudrenec, who commands the only efficient force in Jaswant Rao's service, continues much disgusted with the conduct of Mr. Pohlman and other officers attached to Mr. Perron's 2nd Brigade of regular infantry.

The Bais, I understand, are arrived within twenty *kos* of Burhanpur, and purpose attempting to effect a junction with Lakwaji by the route of Malwa. But if Ambaji be not altogether deficient in conduct these ladies will fail in their design unless indeed they should be supported therein by Jaswant Rao Holkar.

Hakim Shewair informs me, that he has been recalled to the Durbar and treated with marked kindness, as well as attention, by the Jaipur Raja. I have every reason to believe that the restoration of the Hakim to favor is solely ascribable to Your Lordship's condescension in treating Partab Singh with so much distinction on occasion of the nuptial of his son, and it is at least certain that the principal people of the city were highly gratified when they learnt a present was on the road for their prince from the Governor General of India.

**No. 15**—Collins describes the efforts of Sindhia to isolate Lakwa Dada and adds that due to Sindhia's acts of treachery towards his Sardars they have been completely disgusted and very much alarmed.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 9th June 1800.*

I do myself the honour to forward herewith a copy and translate of a letter which I this day received from Daulat Rao Sindhia. In reply I have assured the Maharaja that his request respecting Lakwa Dada should be submitted for the consideration of Your Lordship without delay.

Sindhia has earnestly entreated of Jaswant Rao Holkar to prevent the Bais from crossing the Narbada. But at the same time that Holkar returned an evasive answer to this requisition, he sent an express to the ladies advising them by all means to hasten their journey to Ujjain. At present appearances strongly indicate an inclination on the part of this Chief to support the interests of the Bais.

Though Ambaji has accepted the Naibship of Hindustan, yet he seems neither prepared nor disposed to take an active part in the disturbances which are likely to ensue from the defection of Lakwa Dada and Juggu Bapu. In fact Sindhia's repeated acts of treachery towards his Sardars have so completely disgusted and alarmed the old adherents of his family that, were it not for the support of the brigades commanded by the European officers in his service, his power as well in the Deccan as in this quarter would, I apprehend, soon be annihilated.

Mr. Perron, who is fully apprized of the engagements which the vakils of Raja Bhim Singh have entered into with the disaffected Maratha Chiefs, has commenced his march towards the Jodhpur territories with force for the purpose either of detaching the Raja of that country from his connexion with Lakwa, or of punishing him should his admonitions to this effect be disregarded by the Rajput Prince.

Lakwa Dada, rejecting Mr. Perron's proposal of an interview, has moved towards Udaipur with a view of prevailing on the Rana to assist him with a sum of money for the payment of arrears due to his troops. As soon as his pecuniary distresses are relieved Lakwa means to repair to Ujjain in order to form a junction with the Bais. In the meantime he is extremely assiduous in his endeavours to.....[win over] to his party the Girassia Chiefs and the Nawab of Bhopal, and, I think, with great likelihood of success.

No. 15A—Enclosure.

*Translation of a letter from Daulat Rao Sindhia to Lieutenant-Colonel John Collins.*

Having at the time found it expedient to remove Balaji Anant from the sole administration of my affairs, letters of encouragement in consequence of it were dispatched to Lachhman Rao Anant who is in the neighbourhood of Jaipur with my victorious troops : the Rao, however, is an adherent of Balaji Anant ; if he does not at once trust to these assurances, but in apprehension flies for refuge to the East, that is to the dominions of the Nawab Vazir, it will be right and requisite that he meet no asylum there, since no cause of difference subsists between either state. And it becomes you to represent this point in a proper manner to the right hon'ble the Governor General to obtain his sanction to it, and procure an effective prohibition, as the affairs of both governments are the same without the existence of any cause of difference. I write this, therefore, with the pen of friendship and persuade myself that its contents will be complied with.

**No. 16**—Collins forwards letters received from the person deputed by him to Jaipur, and adds that no material change has taken place in the affairs of Sindhia.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 15th June 1800.*

I have the honour to forward herewith copies and translates of two letters (Nos. 1, 2) to my address from Inamullah Khan, the person deputed by me on the part of Your Lordship to the Raja of Jaipur.

No material alteration has occurred in the situation of Sindhia's affairs in Hindustan since my last public letter of the 9th instant. It appears, however, that Shah Nizam-ud-din and Begam Sumroo are on their march to join Mr. Perron. The Begam on this occasion is accompanied by her whole force.

The Bais have halted in the vicinity of the city of Burhanpur in the hope of inducing the *amil* thereof to surrender into their custody the strong fortress of Asirgarh. In the event of their being unsuccessful in this attempt the Bais purpose pursuing their route to Ujjain with all possible expedition in order to form a junction with Jaswant Rao Holkar and Lakwa Dada whilst Ambaji be unprepared or disinclined to obstruct their design.

**No. 16A**—Enclosure.

*Translation of a letter from Inamullah Khan to Lieutenant-Col.  
John Collins, dated 11th Mohurrum, (5th June 1800).*

I reached the pass of Jaipur on Wednesday, the 10th of Mohurrum (4th June), and sent intimation of it to the Hakim. He informed me that an entire reconciliation had not yet taken place between him and the Maharaja, and that this being a Mohamedan day of mourning, I should tomorrow be waited on by whomsoever the Maharaja should appoint for this purpose, or by himself, if he should be so directed. Today, Thursday, the 11th Mohurrum, 5th June, the weather was wet and stormy until 3 p.m. when a message from the Hakim informed me that the Maharaja had just then ordered Dinaram Bohra to receive me and enjoined me to meet him with confidence. Accordingly Dina Ram with much splendor of appearance, elephants, *shutur-sawars*, standards and rockets, attended by many Sardars, and a company of Infantry,

advanced 3 kos from the city and waited for me inside the gate of the pass. Proper preparations on my part being made, I proceeded towards him. We approached each other and embraced from our palanquins. He enquired after your health in the name of the Maharaja and thanked God that my arrival confirmed all that he had fully explained to the Maharaja of your kindness to him when on taking leave of you, you presented him with trays of cloth, etc., and he added that the Maharaja desired him to return after having seen me. I observed that the favour of the right honourable the Governor General towards the Maharaja, and your regard for him, would augment daily. He answered that on my visit to the Raja, he would in my presence, use the same means by which he had established union and friendship between you and the Maharaja, and saying that it was now evening and my tent wet, bid me move next morning to the grove outside the city-gate, or go inside it, to which I assented. As the Raja's Sardars were each for himself anxious to transact this business with me, so there appeared in the countenance of Dinaram a considerable degree of satisfaction.

**No. 16B—Enclosure.**

*Translation of a letter from Inamullah Khan to Lieutenant-Colonel John Collins, dated 13th Mohurram (7th June 1800).*

I informed you the day before yesterday, Thursday, the 11th Mohurram, that the Maharaja had deputed Dinaram Bohra to receive me yesterday the 12th. The Maharaja through Dinaram desired I would wait on him. The Hakim, who was at the Durbar sent me word to come and also that if the Maharaja should admit him to be present at this private visit he would attend, otherwise it was of no consequence. I set out about 12 at noon and Dinaram was again sent by the Maharaja to the doorway at which all palanquins are set down. The interview was private and in the Chandra Mahal, where Rai Ratan Lal and Bakhshi Mitha Lal attended. I presented the *kharitah* of the right honourable the Governor General and your letter to the Maharaja and offered compliments in your name. He enquired after your health and I answered that retaining a sense of his excellent qualities, you were, thank God, in all respects well. He asked me in how many days I performed my journey. I said I arrived in 19 marches. Rai Ratan then read the *kharitah*. The Maharaja looked with satisfaction over the list of the nuptial present and returning all to me, said he had now desired my attendance merely to see me and that a propitious day being fixed on he would inform me of it, when I might bring and present the ceremonious gift. I acquainted him that similar intimation with this was given me by Dina Ram, which was the reason I came without it. The Maharaja

told me he had appointed a garden within the city for my residence and bid me repair to it on returning from the Durbar, and to order in my baggage. After this he asked, where Vazir Ali was, and I answered, in Calcutta. He said the son of Tippu, who it was rumoured the Peshwa had delivered up to the English, was the son of Tippu's wife's sister. I observed it might be so, but that in every respect he was superior to the son of a *Farash*, at which the Maharaja smiled. Rai Ratan remarked that Daulat Rao had at his own Durbar greatly blamed the Peshwa for surrendering the son of Tippu. I questioned him whether he asserted this on newspaper authority, to which he answered in the affirmative. "Such kind of news" said I, "was very common and deserving of no credit". "Just of a piece", added the Maharaja, "with what Lakwa Dada said of him that he received money for the person of Vazir Ali; and as is reported of Nizam Ali Khan, that he seized and gave up a certain Frenchman of distinction to the English who in return for it paid him a crore of rupees". I observed on this, "If the thoughtless multitude assert such vague things, let them; but that in relation to Vazir Ali the Maharaja acted purely from himself, through motives of justice and friendship". He then remarked that the man who acts honourably will be generally esteemed, and added that he had some points to communicate to me which he would deliver at a future meeting. The Maharaja then rose and dismissed me with considerable kindness.

No. 17—The Governor General is informed that Collins has deputed Yusuf Ali to the court of Ranjit Singh. It is also stated that Jaswant Rao Holkar has sided with Lakwa Dada, while Ambaji Ingle continues to be inactive.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 24th June 1800.*

Mir Bengali, the person who (as I informed Lieutenant-Colonel Kirkpatrick) was to have been deputed to the court of Ranjit Singh, having declined undertaking the journey in consequence of the bad state of his health, I have engaged Yusuf Ali Khan for this mission, and from my long experience of his zeal and ability, I am sanguine in my expectation that his conduct will eventually meet with Your Lordship's approbation.

Yusuf Ali has been furnished with proper letters of introduction to all the principal Sardars, and will be accompanied, in his journey, as far as Patiala or possibly farther, by Raur Mal, a Sikh wakil of respectable character and considerable influence.



I do myself the honor to transmit, herewith, copies in English and Persian (No. 1) of my instructions to Yusuf Ali Khan, who I have reason to believe, is now on his way towards the Punjab.

Jaswant Rao Holkar has, at length, determined on acting decisively in favour of the Bais,—he was induced to adopt this resolution partly from the accounts respecting the conduct of Sindhia at Poona and partly from the representations of Mr. Dudrenec who assures Holkar that Mr. Perron has engaged to restore the districts of Rampura and Tonk to the Jaipur Raja.

In consequence of this information and in compliance with a requisition to this effect Jaswant Rao has detached Mir Khan, a Sardar of some military repute, in order to reinforce Mr. Dudrenec with five thousand horses and foot, and these officers are instructed to repel any aggression on the part of Mr. Perron. At the same time Holkar has assured the Bais and Lakwa Dada that it is his intention to support their interests on every occasion.

Hitherto the Jodhpur Raja has not acceded to any of Mr. Perron's propositions, and it seems very doubtful whether he ever will, since he is strongly dissuaded therefrom by Lakwaji, who promises to assist Bhim Singh with all his forces, after he has had an interview with the Rana of Udaipur.

The whole of Sindhia's Sardars in this quarter are highly displeased at the great authority now exercised by Mr. Perron in Hindustan. Ambaji has peremptorily refused to join this officer and he appears so much dissatisfied with the present situation of affairs both here [and] at Poona, that Lakwa is not without hope of detaching him altogether from the interest of Sindhia.

I have the honour to enclose the copy and translate of a letter to my address from Inamullah Khan (No. 2).

**No. 17A—Enclosure.**

*Translation of a letter from Inamullah Khan to Lieut.-Colonel John Collins.*

Today, Thursday, the 18th of Mohurram, 12th of June, the Hakim acquainted me that the Maharaja through Dinaram Bohra would desire to see me and bid me by all means present the nuptial gift. Accordingly I disposed the articles in trays, and taking the elephant and horse with me I tendered them to the Maharaja. He observed, that friendship dispensed with ceremony and that you had very well prepared this

marriage present. Rai Ratan Lal and Rai Chand carefully took charge of the jewels and the other articles according to the list of them signed by you, and the Maharaja got up from his *masnad* to view the horse. He told me he would send for me tomorrow on business, and I expressed my readiness to attend him. As the Durbar was a full one, and that the *Akhbar-navis* had not yet paid his respects to the Maharaja, I took this occasion to present him.

No. 17B—Enclosure.

*Instructions to Yusuf Ali Khan.*

It appearing by recent intelligence from the Punjab that Zaman Shah is endeavouring to attach Ranjit Singh to his interests, for the purpose of forwarding his ambitious views, the Governor General, who is ever watchful to preserve the peace of Hindustan, has directed me to depute some native agent of ability and experience in business, in order to counteract, as far as may be practicable, the insidious proposals of the Durrani Prince. Accordingly I have selected you for this mission, and conceiving that the following observations may tend to impress Ranjit Singh with a just sense of the danger to which he would expose the interests of himself and of his nation by forming any alliance, or political connection with the Shah, I request you will bear them in mind and bring them forward as occasions may offer.

It has been an artifice invariably practised by the Durrani Princes to endeavour by liberal promises previously to secure the alliance of the most powerful nobles of the state on which they meditated conquests. Thus Ahmad Shah Abdali obtained assurances of assistance from many *Umrahs* of the court of Delhi (before he dared to attempt an invasion of Hindustan) by engaging [in] the most solemn manner to settle all affairs at that Durbar entirely to their satisfaction. Nevertheless it is a well known fact that this Chieftain pursuing the same measures with his predecessor, Nadir Shah of infamous memory, had no sooner penetrated with this court than he at once evinced the treachery and cruelty of his natural disposition by an indiscriminate plunder of friends, as well as by sacking the most opulent, and by enslaving the inoffensive inhabitants whom he treated as beasts of burden.

Zaman Shah, who entertains views alike hostile towards Hindustan, is well aware, however, that they never will be carried into effect unless he can first subjugate the Sikh nation. At the same time he must be convinced that this unwarrantable design may easily be defeated by means of the superior power and influence which Ranjit Singh possesses in the Punjab. The Shah, therefore, must naturally be desirous of

conciliating the friendship of this Sikh Chief, and hence his recent insidious proposals for that purpose, may readily be accounted for.

But unless the sagacity of Ranjit Singh be greatly overrated, he never will be caught in so palpable a snare, since without adverting to the ruin which this connection would inevitably draw on the Sikh nation ; and allowing that the most splendid advantages would be held forth to him by the Durranis (whose perfidy, however, is proverbial), it must be obvious to the meanest capacity that as soon as Zaman Shah had acquired a solid footing in the Punjab, motives of policy would induce him to embrace the earliest occasion of sacrificing Ranjit Singh, whose courage, abilities and honour could not fail of exciting the constant dread and jealousy of the tyrant.

Admitting, however, a possibility that the Shah might act with good faith towards Ranjit Singh, still the latter could not promote the ambitious view of the former without forfeiting the general esteem in which he is now held, and without subjecting himself to future difficulties of a most serious nature. At present this Chief is regarded throughout Hindustan as the protector of the Sikh nation, it being generally believed that were it not for the fortitude and gallant conduct of Ranjit Singh, the whole of the Punjab would ere this have become a desert waste, since it is the boast of these northern savages that the grass never grows where their horses have once trodden. What then would be the astonishment, disappointment, and indignation of every prince in India were the Durranis, whose intolerant religion, insatiate avarice and remorseless cruelty have been so often felt by the natives of this country again enabled [to] prosecute their unjustifiable designs on Hindustan by the assistance which they derived from a connection with so renowned a captain as Ranjit Singh ?

As the Sikh Sardars can have but an imperfect idea of the power of the English in India, it is possible that Ranjit Singh may ascribe your present mission to an apprehension on the part of government for the safety of the territorial possessions of the Nawab Vazir. You will, therefore, particularly explain to this Chief that our military force in this quarter is with respect to numbers, equipment and discipline so very superior to any army Zaman Shah could command, that should he be so rash or ill-advised as to approach the frontier of our ally he would inevitably share the fate of the late Tipu Sultan, which you will describe, observing likewise that the capture of Seringapatam and the conquest of Mysore (in defiance of the assistance which Tipu derived from the French who are the Durranis of Europe) as well as other successes equally brilliant in every quarter of the globe, sufficiently mark the unrivalled superiority of the British arms.

But though His Exce<sup>l</sup>lency the Governor General be perfectly confident in his own powers, yet as far as was compatible with the dignity of the

British character he has on all occasions studiously avoided engaging in warfare with the Princes of India. His Excellency is also fully aware that were the Durrani permitted to enter Hindustan, the families of many respectable Sardars would be dishonoured, the peaceful cultivators of the soil robbed of the fruits of their industry, and the poor even be rendered still more wretched in situation, from the direful effects of the great rapacity, and inhumanity of this barbarous tribe, who may justly be regarded as the enemies of the human race.

It is, therefore, as you will explain, from principles of humanity and with a hope of averting the above-mentioned calamities from the inhabitants of Hindustan that the Governor General is desirous of counteracting the present insidious designs of Zaman Shah, and His Excellency entertains little doubt of your succeeding in the object of this mission, since he is impressed with the highest opinion of the wisdom and patriotic virtues of the Sikh Chieftain to whose court you are now deputed.

You will be able to send me particular, and constant information, as well of the internal state of the Punjab as of the intrigues and movements of the Durrani Prince.

**No. 18**—Collins forwards to the Governor General his own correspondence with the Raja of Jaipur, and gives details of the movements of Lakwa Dada, Perron and others.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 10th July 1800.*

I do myself the honour to transmit the copy and translate of a letter to my address from Inamullah Khan, the contents of which evince that Partab Singh had not altogether relinquished his ill-founded hopes of obtaining either protection or assistance from Your Lordship.

In reply to this letter I directed Inamullah Khan to assure the Raja [that] it was equally my duty and inclination to forward any supposition which he might wish to submit [for] Your Lordship's consideration, but that I could by no means encourage the least hope that those proposals on the part of Partab [Singh] would be acceded to by our Governor [General].

The Raja took in very good part what I had written on the occasion and will not, I have reason to think, trouble me again on the same subject. Indeed he seems perfectly sensible that his late misfortunes are solely

ascribable to his own rash and imprudent conduct, the consequences of which, he also knows, would most probably have been still more severely felt by the Jaipur Durbar, had it not been for the marked attention that Your Lordship has shown towards this Prince.

Inamullah Khan has been detained at Jaipur beyond his and my intention at the particular request of the Raja. [He] is desirous of his taking charge of some articles which, I understand, are being provided for Your Lordship, and which, Partab Singh flatters himself, will be accepted and considered as a token of his respect and gratitude.

The protracted stay of Lakwa Dada at Udaipur has been extremely prejudicial to his interests, since it has enabled Mr. Perron to intimidate the Jodhpur Raja into an acceptance of his own terms,

The Bais have applied to Jaswant Rao Holkar for a strong detachment to protect them in their journey from Burhanpur to Malwa. But although Holkar was some time since warmly disposed to espouse the interests of those ladies, and still seems inclined that way, yet the unexpected exaction of Lakwaji, and the consequent submission of Bhim Singh to Mr. Perron, have apparently somewhat abated his zeal for their cause.

Mir Khan in his march to Rampura plundered many villages in the Malwa province appertaining to Daulat Rao Sindhia, and would likewise have laid the city of Ujjain under heavy contributions had not Jaswant Rao timely reminded this officer that he was detached in order to reinforce Mr. Dudrenec, and not for the purpose of ravaging the districts of the Maharaja.

Mr. Perron, being joined by Begam Sumru and Shah Nizam-ud-din, is now in considerable force. Nevertheless should he be detained in the Rajput territories until the return of Lakwa and Durjan Sal, these sardars who are most active partisans and perfectly acquainted with that country, may greatly distress his camp by intercepting all supplies of provisions, etc. Mr. Perron aware of his critical situation appears very anxious to return to Koil [as soon] as possible, and on this account is extremely urgent with the Jodhpur Raja to liquidate the balance of tribute now due to Sindhia.

The intelligence lately received here of the march of Mr. Filose towards Hindustan in command of five regular battalions of infantry, and the recent pressing remonstrances of Daulat Rao Sindhia, have at length determined Ambaji to join Mr. Perron with all his forces, an event which must, I conceive, soon give a decided superiority to Sindhia's party in this quarter.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a letter from the Jaipur Raja that ought to have reached me long ere this ; the copy and translate

of which (Enclosure No. 2) I enclose for Your Lordship's information together with transcripts in English and Persian of my reply (Enclosure No. 3).

I have just learnt that Yusuf Ali Khan was detained at Delhi partly by business, and partly by superstitious attention to a lucky day for departing until the 4th of this month, when he proceeded on his journey towards the Punjab.

**No. 18A—Enclosure.**

*Translation of a letter from Inamullah Khan to Lieutenant-Colonel J. Collins.*

By my former *arzi* you will have learned that I presented the nuptial gift on Thursday the [18th] of Mohurram. Today Sunday, the 21st the Maharaja sent for me, took me into a private apartment and [said],—“ I mention this to you only to write to the Colonel. In the first place that Lakwa Dada remarked to my vakils that they received 10 lakhs of rupees for the surrender of Vazir Ali from whom they had taken jewels to the amount of 4 crore of rupees. My vakils denied this and were again told that if the fact were not as stated then why to the Companies which came with the Colonel, they gave him up.

“ That believing I should receive no assistance from you (the English), I gave battle and involved myself in difficulties and as you were employed in the negotiation and are now again come here, I therefore say.

“ Hindustan is at present vacant, and these Marathas are going into Malwa ; take this country into your possession, I will pay the same amount of tribute to you that I did to Inayat Khan and God's creatures will live tranquil and happy.

“ If this be not expedient at present, let the Colonel, therefore, obtain for me about [two ?] battalions for the purpose of regulating my government, and let him previously apprise me of the monthly expense of them agreeably with what is customary, [so] that [by] providing for the same I may send for this force and employ it for the adjustment of my affairs. To these battalions I will join my own troops and retake my parganas of which the Southerners, in violation of agreement [of] having discharged my quota of tribute, are in possession ; these parganas are several as Chore Peharee Kaman, Tonk, Rampura, Narnol.” The Maharaja having finished, I told him in answer that you were his friend, that his propositions being of an extremely delicate nature I required a sketch of them in writing, that [after] you have perused them would intimate how far they would correspond

with the times, that addressing them under his seal to the Right honourable Governor General he should send them to you, and that I too would state what I witnessed of his uneasiness and concern. The Maharaja in reply said he would write down the heads of them and commit the explanation of them to me; whenever he delivers them to me they shall be forwarded to you. Dinaram only, who stood waving the *chauri* over the Maharaja was present at this interview. Bakhshi Mitha Lal, Rai Ratan Lal were waiting, but the Maharaja admitted none of them to the conference.

**No. 18B—Enclosure.**

*Translation of a letter from Raja Partab Singh to Lieutenant-Colonel J. Collins.*

I before addressed a letter of congratulation to you on the marriage of my fortunate son Chimna (his years be many !) which no doubt has reached you.

It is very probable that you are apprized through the ordinary channels of intelligence, of the state of affairs here, of the Southern Chief being displeased with me on the occasion already known to you and of whatever else has occurred, as to the resolution I took to engage and my being compelled to return to Sawai Jaipur. Contemplating these contingencies, I wavered in adopting the measure (the surrender of Vazir Ali), but my friendship for the English did not permit me to act inconsistently with my regard for the preservation of it. At our interview you quieted my mind on all these matters, and for that, all the English I might reckon as my associates in the hour of necessity. It is now the moment to evince this. Through the favor of God it is the praiseworthy practice of Sardars to maintain their engagements; it is, therefore, incumbent on you according to your declaration to impress the Nawab Governor General Bahadur with all these particulars and speedily to adopt such proceedings in this respect as may over-awe my enemies, for the time will admit of no delay. You will be informed of the other circumstances through the letters of Rai Ram Singh. As to the rest consider my heart anxious for you, and continue to make me happy by the receipt of your friendly letters.

**• No. 18C—Enclosure.**

*Translation of a letter addressed to Raja Partab Singh of Jaipur by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Collins, dated Fatehgarh, 1st July 1800.*

I am this day favored with a letter from my friend referring me to the Akhbars for events that occurred in consequence of the late

misunderstanding between Jaipur and Deccani Sardars; likewise noticing other particulars of which, however, I have not the most distant recollection.

In what manner can I reply without giving offence to a friend whom I sincerely regard and at the same time, preserve a due regard for the truth, since were I to admit that I ever encouraged the least hope that His Excellency the Governor General would under circumstances assist the Maharaja with a military force, I should disgrace myself by giving countenance to a palpable misrepresentation. Surely it cannot have escaped the memory of my friend, that when this proposition was brought forward at his Durbar, I plainly declared I have no power whatever even to enter upon a subject of that nature, the object of my mission being confined to a requisition to the surrender of Vazir Ali's person to the English Government. Inamullah Khan can bear testimony to the correctness of this statement as could also Rai Ratan Lal and Hakim Shavir, as well as my Munshis Hussain Ali Khan and Mirza Bakar Khan, who were present at every conference I ever held either with the Maharaja or his ministers. Indeed from the period of my departure from Jaipur until this present moment I always understood that the order of the Maharaja for the surrender of Vazir Ali were solely induced by motives of respect and friendship towards His Excellency the Governor General, and as I am still desirous of retaining this opinion, I will suppose that the letter now referred to was written by some Munshi under circumstances of haste and confusion without due consideration and without submitting the content to the perusal of the Maharaja previous to its dispatch.

*P.S.*—My friend! your letter was brought to me by Lachhman Singh to whose care I understand it was intrusted by Rai Ram Singh Vakil.

**No. 19**—Collins informs the Governor General about the movements and possible intentions of Perron, George Thomas, Ambaji Ingle, Dudrenec and Lakwa Dada.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 26th July 1800.*

Mr. Perron has been obliged to relinquish his objects on Jodhpur, and to march for Saharanpur in order to quell some disturbances which have been excited in that district by Shambhu Nath, the Dewan of Imam Bakhsh Khan and the firm adherent of Lakwa Dada.



Shambhu Nath has assembled eight thousand armed mercenaries of which number nearly three thousand are Rohillas, a force too inconsiderable to create the least serious alarm were not Mr. Perron aware that this Dewan expected powerful support from other quarters. The enclosure No. 1 will explain to Your Lordship the nature of the Frenchman's present apprehensions.

Though I can have little doubt that Mr. Perron is jealous of the growing power of Mr. George Thomas and would willingly crush it whenever a convenient opportunity occurred, yet I am inclined to think he will, if possible, avoid coming to immediate hostilities with that officer as well on account of the force he commands which is far from contemptible, as in consideration of Mr. Thomas's connection with Begum Samru, who now accompanies Mr. Perron and whose assistance is of importance in this juncture.

Yusuf Ali Khan, who was detained a whole day in the camp of Mr. George Thomas at Sossnah [?] by the late heavy rains, states his present force to consist of seven battalions of infantry, five hundred cavalry, twenty field-pieces of artillery and four howitzers, the whole well equipped, regularly paid and in strict subordination. Mr. Thomas treated Yusuf Ali with great kindness and furnished him with a strong escort to Jind, a Sikh city distant about sixty kos from Delhi.

Mr. Perron has left four battalions of sepoy and 200 cavalry with Ambaji Rao who is now on his march towards Mewar for the purpose of dispossessing the Rana of Udaipur of that district. But my native agent who attends his camp, assures me this Chief is not at all disposed to proceed to extremities with Lakwa Dada should the latter be resolved on opposing his design.

In fact Ambaji is much dissatisfied with the present conduct of Mr. Perron whom he accuses of being solely intent on protecting the districts which are assigned in *jaidad* to himself and Mr. Filose, without any consideration for the general interests of Sindhia in Hindustan.

The Bais are on their march towards the Narbada where they expect to be joined by a detachment of Jaswant Rao's troops. But as Mr. Perron seems to have gained over his country-man Mr. Dudrenec by relinquishing to him the parganas of Tonk and Rampura (in violation however of his recent engagements with the Jaipur Raja), it is not impossible but that Holkar may be prevailed on to desert the interests of the Bais by means of the influence which Mr. Dudrenec possesses in the counsels of this Chieftain.

Lakwa Dada has at length quitted the vicinity of Udaipur after obtaining a small supply of money and liberal promises of support from the Rana. Your Lordship will perceive on perusing the contents of the enclosure

No. 2 that this Chief has no design of making any submission to Daulat Rao Sindhia whose inhuman treatment of Ballu Tantia leaves Lakwa no hope of obtaining security from a conciliation with the Maharaja.

I have the honour to enclose a *Shokah* to Your Lordship's address from His Majesty Shah Alam.

**No. 19A—Enclosure.**

*Extract of a letter from Colonel Collins' private agent in the Camp of Ambaji, dated 20th of Safar, 13th July 1800.*

Mr. Perron has represented to Ambaji Rao that Shambhu Nath, the Dewan of Imam Bakhsh Khan, has entered into a confederacy with the Sikhs and Mr. George Thomas and excited commotion in Hindustan, and that Mr. Thomas, being of the same nation with the gentlemen to the eastward, has acquired considerable consequence through their countenance and is the promoter of disturbance. That as there are two expeditions to be forwarded, and that he Ambaji could not oppose Mr. G. Thomas and punish Sikhs, he would, therefore, furnish battalions under Mr. Louis and two of the big guns with which he advised Ambaji to pass expeditiously to Ujjain marching through and previously settling Mewar, that he himself as a first object would proceed against Mr. Thomas, that Mr. Dudrenec being of his own country he had no intention of proceeding against him and it was necessary for Ambaji to withdraw his establishment from Tonk. Ambaji has accordingly recalled his *Pagah* and is at heart extremely dissatisfied with Mr. Perron of whom he speaks of in the most opprobrious terms among his own domestics, and complains that it was designed to yoke these Marathas and crowd of followers on him, which was the reason that he, Mr. Perron, came this way. He asks, whence is he now to supply the monthly expense of 2 lakhs of rupees for these troops.

At present the division of the Jodhpur tribute and the *mahals* of Muttra are the points in discussion between these two Sardars.

**No. 19B—Enclosure.**

*Extract of a letter from Munshi Nathu Ram to Husain Ali Khan, dated 8th Safar, 1st of July 1800.*

Lakwaji Bahadur after the victory at Jaipur had determined on proceeding to Akbarabad and visiting the Colonel, but the vicissitudes of the times put it out of his power. He has, however, escaped the snare

of treachery. At present the Rana and his *Umrahs* are heartily in his interests and the Raja of Jodhpur with forty thousand horse and foot are united with him like one soul animating two bodies. Jaswant Rao Holkar with his associates, Mr. Dudrenec and Mir Khan, are cordially at his service. Kader Bahadur will now proceed to Jodhpur by a road out of the common tract, and with the Rathores will perform whatever appear requisite to be done. In fact the colour of the times is extremely changeable. To you the picture of the Deccan is particularly evident. All are dismembered except the brigades which continue attached. How can they long remain so embarrassed by the want of money? It is very probable that Dada Bahadur, through the kindness of Shreemant the Peshwa from whom satisfactory assurances of every kind are received, will return about the period of the Dashera with a large force to the quarter of Muttra and Akbarabad. Colonel Palmer and the Peshwa are consulting together; if they agree shall I engage Dada Bahadur's attention to the object of it. The Bais likewise will shortly be here, which I mention for your information.

No. 20—Collins submits to the Governor General that during the course of his negotiations with the Jaipur Durbar he never promised any help to the Durbar from the English Company, though it is so affirmed by it. He, therefore, forwards all of his previous correspondence and the testimony of his associate Munshis in support of his own assertion.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 3rd August 1800.*

I do myself the honour to enclose a copy and translate of Raja Partab Singh's reply to my letter of the 10th ultimo, transcripts of which, in English and Persian, accompanied by public address to Your Lordship of the same date.

It would be unavailing were I at present to make any further attempt for the purpose of inducing a candid acknowledgment from Partab Singh of the misrepresentations of his ministers, since, as he does not understand the Persian language, whatever I might write to him on this subject, would most probably be misinterpreted, either by Bakhshi Mitha Lal or by some other person equally in the interests of Mr. Perron, who, of late, has acquired considerable influence at the Jaipur Durbar.

I fear also it would appear unbecoming were I to make any pointed remarks on the assertions and insinuations contained in the Raja's last letter; but as I consider it my bounden duty to give Your Lordship

every possible satisfaction as well respecting the nature of my transactions as of the extent of my engagements, with the Jaipur Durbar, I have with this view, proposed certain questions to Hussain Ali Khan, and Mirza Bakar Khan, copies of which and of their accounts, both in English and Persian, I herewith have the honour to transmit.

And that Your Lordship may, at the same time, be furnished with the most correct information regarding my conduct throughout that unpleasant business, I shall, by today's dak, forward to Mr. N. B. Edmonstone, Persian translator, attested copies of all letters, and papers referred to, either by the Raja, or by myself, in order that the contents thereof may be submitted to Your Lordship in the most unquestionable form.

When I took leave of the Jaipur Raja, I expected that my letters specifying the conditions relative to the surrender of Vazir Ali would have been read in the presence of the [staff] attached to the Residency, all of whom accompanied me as well on this occasion as on my first visit, but the moment I proposed entering on business, the Raja requested I would retire with him to a private apartment, and no person of my suite was invited to follow us, except Hussain Ali Khan and Mirza Bakar Khan. Inamullah was at this time rather too much indisposed to attend the Durbar. When the letters had been fully explained, and all points finally agreed on, the gentlemen of my family were desired to walk in by order of the Maharaja, who, in every other respect, behaved towards them with much politeness.

Hussain Ali Khan has officiated as one of the public Munshis of this Residency for ten years during which period his conduct has acquired him the esteem and regard of the different gentlemen with whom he has transacted business. Towards Mirza Bakar Khan, I must confess myself partial, possibly on account of his useful talents. I, therefore, humbly beg leave to refer Your Lordship to Mr. N. B. Edmonstone for the character of this Munshi who, I have reason to think, is well known to that gentleman.

Inamullah Khan left Jainagar on the 13th of last month. He has not apprized me of Raja Partab Singh's having brought forward any other propositions than those which I had the honour to transmit to Your Lordship in my letter of the 10th ultimo.

No. 20A—Enclosure.

*Translation of a letter from Raja Partab Singh to Lieut.-Col.  
John Collins, received on the 29th of July 1800.*

I have received your agreeable letter which expresses of your receipt of my *kharita* requiring the aid of the Company's Government, and your

desire to prove your declarations on that head, and your complaint that you did not utter a word to such effect in all your conversations with my ministers ; but that in your conference with Rai Ratan Lal in presence of Inamullah Khan, Munshi Bakar Khan and others, you affirmed, your business related solely to the negotiation for the assassin, and that you had nothing to do with other matters. In consequence of what you ask, how could I write that you engaged for it, with the consent of the English Company, together with particulars of like nature detailed with the pen of trust and increase the harmony of friendship.

The friendship and affection subsisting between me and the English Company is through Providence, long since strengthened to the degree of identity on all occasions ; the counsels on both are the same ; and the channel for ascertaining the most secret intentions of each party is ever open. No explanation is necessary to prove this, which is too notorious to be particularized. When you came here I was much taken with your upright proceeding, and persuaded myself that the fruit of so much concord would be multiplied through ; the consequence of this was, that though you brought no recent letter from the Governor General, yet relying on the mere weight of your representations, surrendered the assassin to you in consideration of my friendship for the Sarkar of the English Company, which has continued perfect for many years. If you credit my assertion, this even you did not say, that you were fully empowered on the subject of the assassin only. But you did say, that by this means (the surrender of him) the friendship on both sides would be so established in equal participation of honour and suffering, that no difference would in any shape remain. Your *mutsaddis* as well as you repeatedly affirmed the same thing. It follows then that where real friendship exists in the degree of coalescence, pain and pleasure are considered equally united ; accordingly *kharitahs* importing the same were addressed to the Governor General and to you. Besides this a *kaulnamah* was framed through Hakim Xavier De Silva Portuguese (\*\*\*\*) and you took an English translation of it. It contained these words "unity of [\*\*\*\*] friend and of enemies", I expected that during this interval you had forwarded it to Calcutta, and that you were taking measures regarding it. As nothing has transpired in answer to it, I now, by Inamullah Khan address you again on the same subject. When I designed to give battle to my enemies from the south you also, on your own part, wrote to me that you would speedily perform whatever I should command. This letter is in my possession. You now entirely deny having written to this effect ; perhaps you do so for some wise purpose, otherwise as it is your nature to act honourably, I can form no other conjecture. All these doubts seem as remote from the friendship of the English Company, as they are from your good sense. I rest my hopes of the increase of the mutual friendly footing of both states on your many virtues.

**No. 20B**—Collins addressed a letter to Munshi Hussain Ali asking him to answer certain queries regarding the late transactions between the writer and the Jaipur Durbar. The original letter, the Munshi's reply to it, and the queries along with their answers are given below. A similar letter was addressed to the other Munshi, Bakar Khan, who too replied to it similarly, and answered the queries in the same strain.

*(i) Collins' letter to Hussain Ali.*

You have perused my late correspondence with the Jaipur Raja and fully understand its contents. The disagreement between Raja Partab Singh and me in our respective statements of facts, will sufficiently account for the following questions, since you may readily conceive how extremely anxious I must feel that His Excellency the Governor General should be most exactly informed respecting the nature of my engagements with that Prince. It is, therefore, my sincere and earnest desire that in your replies to the queries you will pay the strictest attention to truth without considering how far it may be pleasing or displeasing either to me or the Jaipur Raja. At the same time you will bear in mind that it is very probable, you may at some future period be called on to confirm on oath the correctness of your present deposition.

*(ii) Answer of Hussain Ali Khan to Collins' letter.*

Ever since I saw your correspondence with the Jaipur Raja my surprise has been extreme on account of the deviation in his statements, and I had it in mind to point them out to you when you prepared your questions to which you require my replies. I, therefore, return an answer to each particular query with the strictest truth, and under no apprehension of the pleasure or displeasure of either state; and I am ready to confirm the same on oath.

*(iii) Queries. 1st query.*—Were you present at all the conferences which I held at different periods, with the Jaipur Raja, his Hindu ministers and Hakim Shewair?

*Reply.*—I have been present and engaged in all the correspondence and conferences relative to the surrender of the assassin by the Raja's Government from the commencement of the means adopted for that purpose to the conclusion of it and I am thoroughly acquainted with the conversations that took place on this subject.

*2nd query.*—Did you hear, and attend to, every part of the conversation that passed between me and those persons, or did I at any time

speak so privately to them, or they to me, that you could not understand the subject of our discourse ?

*Reply.*—Every conversation held with you by the Raja's ministers, or by you with them was public. I was always present, and I understood all that was said.

*3rd Query.*—What were the declared motives which induced Partab Singh to consent to deliver up the person of Vazir Ali to the English Government ?

*Reply.*—The Raja's motive for delivering up Vazir Ali to our government was wholly for the purpose of augmenting his friendship and affection with the English.

*4th Query.*—What was the substance of Raja Partab Singh's discourse to me at his own Durbar regarding the Marathas ?

*Reply.*—The substance of the Raja's discourse was that the Marathas not only always took his money but injured his country, that he had the ability by force of arms to expel them once only from his boundaries, but that they reassembling, would return and seek to distress his dominions, while he was unable to maintain a constant opposition. He also added that a treaty having been entered into between the Nawab Nazim and the Company, it would be an eligible thing if, through your good offices, a similar one were established with him.

*5th Query.*—Was this discourse delivered before, or after, the Raja had consented to deliver up Vazir Ali ?

*Reply.*—The Raja delivered this discourse after he had agreed to deliver up Vazir Ali.

*6th Query.*—What answer did I make to this discourse ?

*Reply.*—You listened to this discourse from kindness for the Raja, but told him in answer that you waited on him by the appointment of the Governor General empowering you to negotiate simply for the surrender of Vazir Ali, that you were unauthorized on other subjects, could return him no answer to his propositions, and that Inamullah Khan had already stated the same to the Mahataja. To this excuse the Raja replied that if you would not yourself propose these points to the Governor General, he would do so by letter and give it to you to forward, on which you gave him to understand that you would assuredly comply if he would affix his seal to it.

*7th Query.*—Did the Raja at any time express the least apprehension of incurring the displeasure of the Maratha Chiefs in the event of his surrendering Vazir Ali to the English Government ?

*Reply.*—Raja Partab Singh at no time expressed apprehension whatever of incurring the displeasure of the Maratha Chiefs in regard to giving up Vazir Ali to our government, neither to you, nor, by any intimation of it, to me.

*8th Query.*—Did I ever directly or indirectly afford any grounds of expectation either to Raja Partab Singh or his ministers that the Governor General would under any circumstances assist the Raja with a military force?

*Reply.*—You never directly or indirectly gave any hope to the Raja or his ministers that the Governor General would under any circumstances assist the Raja with a military force.

*9th Query.*—If you recollect what I said to Hakim Shewair on the subject of Partab Singh's desire of obtaining the protection of the Governor General, repeat the substance of it.

*Reply.*—When Hakim Xavier in relation to the Raja's wishes required the assistance of the Governor General you plainly told him in answer, that though such a circumstance would give you pleasure, yet that the Governor General would not assist the Maharaja with a military force, nor yield to requisitions of this nature, so long as the friendship and treaties established between the Marathas and our government should remain unviolated, but that if the Maharaja would convey to you his propositions under his seal, that you would transmit them to the Governor General.

*10th Query.*—When was this spoken before or after the surrender of Vazir Ali, and whether once or often?

*Reply.*—Such conversations often occurred both before and after the surrender of Vazir Ali, and you invariably replied as stated in the foregoing answer, without ever uttering a single word of hope on that subject.

*11th Query.*—Did either you or Inamullah Khan ever give Partab Singh or his ministers any hope that our government would support the Raja against the Marathas?

*Reply.*—I never gave the Raja or his ministers any hope that your government would support the Raja against the Marathas, and I am convinced from the letters and conversation of my brother Inamullah Khan that he neither gave any hope of aid from your Government against the Marathas. He, however, promised that if they would deliver over Vazir Ali both the Governor General and you would consider yourselves under obligations of friendship, and that former amity would be reanimated, increased, and adorned by it.



*12th Query.*—On what day did Dina Ram and Rai Chand pay me a visit? I wish to ascertain whether it was before or after Raja Partab Singh had promised to surrender Vazir Ali?

*Reply.*—Dina Ram Bohra and Rai Chand Dewan paid you a visit in the evening of the 29th of November, 1799, and the Maharaja promised to deliver over Vazir Ali on the 25th of the same month.

*13th Query.*—Do you recollect the purport of the propositions made to me at this visit by those ministers?

*Reply.*—When those ministers called upon you they represented that the Maharaja had through friendship consented to give up Vazir Ali, who averse from departing, would not part with his arms but declared he would destroy himself. They asked of you advice how to remedy this, and proposed that if he did not immediately give up his arms for you to receive him in that condition, that you could with ease disarm him on the road.

*14th Query.*—State the substance of my reply as well as of the conversation that ensued in consequence of those propositions.

*Reply.*—As the conference between you and the ministers lasted above two hours I have not retained all that passed, but I will relate the substance of it. You asked them why they sought advice from you; [you] told them the affair was theirs and said they might execute it in the manner they judged best. You objected to take him (Vazir Ali) armed for this reason, that for the Maharaja's sake you had spared his life, and if therefore as he had murdered four gentlemen already he were on the road to attempt the lives of others, that you would be induced to this dilemma, tamely to submit to the attempt would be impossible, and to kill him on the occasion would be a breach of your condition pledged for his life. The ministers proposed to you a delay of two or three days more, or that otherwise if you persisted in sending off your *pesh-khemah* on the next day, the Maharaja himself would wait on you for the purpose of preventing it. You answered that your home was also that of the Maharaja, to which he would come whenever he pleased, but that having ordered away your *pesh-khemah* it was not in your power to countermand it, that it would be dispatched tomorrow without fail, and that you would proceed on your journey the day after. It was a fact, you observed, that the people of this country in all their measures advanced by little and little towards the completion of them, whilst it was the custom of your nation whether in bestowing or achieving to accomplish the subject at once; and you instanced that, when the Maharaja had desired to save the lives of the assassin, you cheerfully met his wishes from the feelings of friendship. To this you added that your honour now was all that was left you and

that you would not resign. Dina Ram and Rai Chand then likened you to a mighty river, whose exhaustless current would never cease to flow, and you interrupted them by saying that water does dry up. You told them that you now wanted that glow of heat with which in friendship to the Maharaja you came for the surrender of Vazir Ali and that should the Maharaja send him to you after your departure, that you would not receive him because the action would then want all those recommendations that under present circumstances it can possess. You expressed your great astonishment at their communication of Vazir Ali's refusal to give up his arms when they proposed it to him, and of his declaration to destroy himself, because the villain would never willingly resign them; and you urged that the matter would indeed be difficult if they allowed his statements to have any weight. You supposed \* \* \* \* can [?], that he should one day or other ask the Maharaja to resign his *masnad* to him or that he would otherwise destroy himself and you required them to say if they were aware of the answer the Maharaja would give him. Smiling at this the ministers acknowledged the justness of what you spoke and assured you that they could not depend on the speeches of the assassin. You, moreover, remarked that in the event of the Maharaja not delivering up the assassin and of your return without him, that the circumstance as referable to the judgment of it that might be formed by the Governor General would not occasion you the smallest uneasiness, but that if having taken upon yourself to engage for his life you returned with him, that then indeed you would feel anxiety as to the uncertainty with the approbation of the Governor General. As to when they proposed of surrendering him to you with his arms, you assented to it, provided the Maharaja delivered him up to you unconditionally. Besides these you urged other cogent reasons in reply to the proposals of those ministers.

*15th Query.*—Do you recollect in what manner the letter from Sindhia to Lakwa Dada (on the subject of Vazir Ali's surrender) was brought forward?

*Reply.*—After this the ministers represented that the Marathas would take umbrage at the surrender of Vazir Ali, on which you declared to them that you had hitherto abstained from all mention of the Marathas in this business, but that as they themselves had now introduced it, you would inform them that the Marathas would not experience any displeasure whatever on the occasion. At the same time you ordered me to produce the letter in my possession addressed by Maharaja Daulut Rao Sindhia. I laid it before you and you put it into the hands of Rai Chand.

*16th Query.*—Was this letter ever shown to Raja Partab Singh, or did I ever hint to him that I had such a letter in my possession?

*Reply.*—This letter was never shown by you to the Raja nor did you hint to him that you had such a letter in your possession.

*17th Query.*—When Dina Ram had examined this letter what did he say upon it?

*Reply.*—When Rai Chand who was acquainted with the Marathi language, read this letter which you gave him for that purpose and had explained its contents to Dina Ram, with indignation the latter exclaimed what liars and rascals these Marathas are; while they tell me one thing they thus tell the English contrary. But since friendship is established between the Raja and the Governor General no interference of others shall appear in this business. In fine, I had it from a confidential person that when they related all that passed at this meeting to the Maharaja, he expressed himself somewhat dissatisfied with them for touching on the subject of the Marathas to you.

*18th Query.*—Who were present at my conference with Dina Ram and Rai Chand?

*Reply.*—At your conference with these ministers Hakim Xavier Khan, Mirza Mahomed Bakar Khan and I were present.

*19th Query.*—Was the conversation carried on by me and the Hindu ministers, or did any other person speak on this occasion?

*Reply.*—You only conversed with Dina Ram and Rai Chand. No other person interfered except the Hakim when two or three times in a reproachful way he asked these ministers if they did not hear what you said, and bid them answer you.

*20th Query.*—Did I during the above conference evince the least displeasure or ill-humour towards either Dina Ram or Rai Chand?

*Reply.*—You did not during this conference evince the least displeasure or ill-humour towards Dina Ram or Rai Chand. On the contrary you delivered yourself with so much grace and elegance as gave the ministers pleasure while they listened to you with smiles and conversed with you without reserve.

*21st Query.*—When I took my final leave of the Raja you may recollect that I presented him with certain Persian papers. Have you copies thereof? If you have, affix your seal to them and certify that they are true transcripts.

*Reply.*—When you took your final leave you gave certain Persian letters to the Raja under your seal. As I keep copies in your official letter-book

of all letters I write in your name, I now by your orders produce copies from that book, and have affixed my seal to them.

*22nd Query.*—Did I to the best of your belief and knowledge enter into any other engagements with the Jaipur Durbar, either written or verbal, than those contained in the papers above referred to?

*Reply.*—You entered into no engagements of any kind with the Jaipur Durbar, written or verbal, except what are contained in the above papers.

*23rd Query.*—Whether Rai Ratan Lal explained the contents of those papers to Raja Partab Singh and whether the Raja expressed himself satisfied therewith?

*Reply.*—Rai Ratan Lal explained the contents of the above papers to the Raja who approved of them.

*24th Query.*—Do you recollect Rai Ratan Lal's expressing an expectation that Vazir Ali should be treated in an honourable manner after his surrender?

*Reply.*—I do recollect that when it was settled to deliver up Vazir Ali and that you went to take your leave of the Raja, Rai Ratan Lal hoped Vazir Ali would be treated with honour and respect, and receive victuals and clothes.

*25th Query.*—What answer did I make to Rai Ratan Lal on this occasion and what did the Raja say in reply?

*Reply.*—In answer to Rai Ratan Lal you asked him how he could speak so; and what honour and respect remained for the man who should murder four gentlemen conspicuous for rank and accomplishments? In the dominions of the Maharaja let a person kill but a peacock or sparrow, a man is punished in veneration for the animal. Having for the Maharaja's sake yielded to spare the assassin's life, he should have food and raiment, how else could it be preserved? But besides this he should meet with no distinction from your government, and hearing this the Maharaja turned to Rai Ratan Lal, asked what more than that was necessary, for it was sufficient. You here addressed the Maharaja telling him that, what he had performed was more than a father would do for his son, which you thus verified. The late Asaf-ud-daulah merely cherished his childhood, the Maharaja has saved his life in maturer years. As soon as the Maharaja heard this, such was the look he cast towards Rai Ratan Lal that it was easy to discover he thought the assassin merited death

and that his own endeavours had secured his life, the English in firm friendship for him having relinquished their claim of blood for blood.

*26th Query.*—Did I at any time directly or indirectly threaten Raja Partab Singh with the displeasure of the English Government in the event of his refusing to deliver up the assassin Vazir Ali?

*Reply.*—You never did threaten him.

*27th Query.*—In what language did the Raja and his ministers converse with me?

*Reply.*—As the Raja was unacquainted with the Persian language, he and his ministers always conversed with you in Hindustani.

*28th Query.*—Did Hakim Shewair deliver a Persian paper to me containing a rough draft of the proposals which Raja Partab Singh intended to submit to His Excellency the Governor General?

*Reply.*—Yes, he did.

*29th Query.*—Is this paper in your possession? If it be, affix your seal to it and certify its authority.

*Reply.*—Here it is under my seal.

*30th Query.*—When Hakim Shewair gave me this paper, what conversation passed between him and me regarding it?

*Reply.*—When Hakim Shewair gave you that paper, you told him, propriety required that all these propositions of the Raja should be suitably prepared and given to you under the seal and signature of the Raja, and that then you would forward them to the Governor General. Such papers you said without hand or seal were not fit to be transmitted. The Hakim approved of this advice, and told you when he should return to Jaipur, he would have the propositions drawn out under the Maharaja's seal and sent to you. But to this day the Maharaja has not dispatched that paper to you.

*31st Query.*—When and at what place was this paper presented to me?

*Reply.*—Hakim Shewair presented you with that paper on the 1st [?] 7th] of December, 1799 when you reached Mehwa [Mehwa?] Ramgarh which is about 40 kos east of Jaipur.

*32nd Query.*—Have you copies of all the letters written by me to Raja Partab Singh since my departure from the city of Jaipur? If you have,

affix your seal to each respectively and certify that they are faithful transcripts.

*Reply.*—Copies of all the letters under my seal are here at hand.

*33rd Query.*—Do you recollect the reason assigned by me to Hakim Shewair for not permitting him to accompany me farther than Agra?

*Reply.*—What you said to Hakim Shewair on the night, when you desired him not to come further than Agra, was that if he advanced farther than this city with you, the Marathas might put a bad construction on the circumstances of the Maharaja's having sent one of his sardars with you, and that construction might prove not only wrong but injurious to his government. The Hakim assented to the propriety of what you said and returned accordingly.

**No. 21.**—Sindhia's affairs in Malwa take a favourable turn and Ambaji becomes more active lest he should be superseded by some one else in his Naibship of Hindustan.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 18th August 1800.*

I yesterday received a dispatch from Yusuf Ali Khan the contents of which being of an interesting nature, I do myself the honour to forward copies and translates by express for Your Lordship's information.

In reply I have instructed Yusuf Ali Khan to give the Sikh Sardars the most satisfactory assurances that the sole object of his present mission was to place Ranjit Singh on his guard against the insidious and dangerous designs of Zaman Shah. At the same time I have directed this agent to intimate to Lal Singh, that it is as incompatible with the dignity of Your Lordship's sentiments, as with the well-known power of the English, to employ any spy for the purpose of inspecting the internal state of the Punjab, or indeed of any country that was not avowedly hostile to the British Government.

As Lal Singh, who appears to possess much penetration, is of opinion that Ranjit Singh may expect to receive a *khilat* on the part of Your Lordship, I should not hesitate sending one to Lahore, were it not from an apprehension that the Patiala Raja might consider himself entitled to

a similar mark of distinction. Possibly, also, Bhag Singh and Lal Singh, would think themselves slighted if presents were not bestowed on them likewise ; and since, were the wishes of all these persons gratified it might involve the Company in an expense of nearly seven or eight thousand rupees, I shall refrain from taking any steps in this business, which by no means presses, until I learn Your Lordship's pleasure regarding it.

Sindhia's affairs in this quarter, have, of late, assumed a favourable aspect. Shambhu Nath is fled towards Booreah, in consequence of the desertion of many of his followers. Lakwa Dada, indeed, has moved towards Sambhar where he expects to be joined by 4,000 cavalry in the service of the Jodhpur Raja ; but unless he also be supported by George Thomas, an event not very probable, he must, I conceive, be reduced to great extremities on the return of Mr. Perron to the Rajput country.

The arrival of Sindhia's Deccani battalions on the southern banks of the river Tapti, compelled the Bais to fly, with precipitation towards Maheshwar, accompanied only by their confidential Sardars, and 500 horse. Sindhia's infantry were unable to follow them immediately but the commandant of Ashirgarh sent 2,000 Pindaris in pursuit of the ladies. The Bais are, at present, endeavouring to engage the Grassiah Chiefs, in their interests, but if Jaswant Rao Holkar should refuse them his protection, they will, I imagine, be forced to quit Malwa as soon as the regular corps arrive in that province, nor do I know where they can be securely sheltered from the vengeance of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

Sindhia has intimated to Ambaji that if he any longer delayed in punishing Lakwaji, some other Chief should be appointed to the government of his territorial possessions in Hindustan. Ambaji alarmed at this menace, has at length marched in force, towards Shahpura. But the Akhbars, from the Ajmere camp, mention that this Chief had tendered one lakh of rupees to Lakwa, on condition that the latter will secure to him the undisturbed possession of the Mewar district.

My agent at the court of Delhi apprizes me that Mr. Perron had actually formed a plan for seizing the person of Begum Samru, whenever she repaired to the citadel, in order to pay her respects to His Majesty Shah Alam. It appears, however, that the Begum had received timely notice of this treacherous design, and had in consequence, retired to her own camp for security.

\* The Jodhpur Raja and Lakwaji are carrying on private negotiations at the Jaipur Durbar, for the purpose, as is supposed, of persuading Raja Partab Singh to unite with them in opposition to Mr. Perron. What the ultimate result of these intrigues may be, it would be presumptuous to conjecture, since the resolves of Partab Singh are constantly fluctuating.

No. 22.—Lakwa Dada is asking the Rana of Udaipur to relieve the Bais from their pecuniary embarrassments.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 10th November 1800.*

The following passage is extracted from a letter just received by a merchant of this place from his family at Peshawar :

*" October 6th, 1800."*

" The Shah has fixed on the 14th of this month for marching from Kabul towards Peshawar. It is his intention, after his arrival at this place, to proceed to Bahawalpur Sind, and the country of the Bhatīs in order to levy tribute. He does not deem it expedient to visit Hindustan this year ; you may, therefore, safely continue your commercial concerns ".

The person who submitted the foregoing extract to my perusal has, frequently, given me very correct information respecting the movements of the Durrāni Prince, on which account I am rather inclined to credit his present intelligence.

Three of Sindhia's regular battalions have crossed the Narbada without encountering any opposition. This event joined to the pecuniary distress of the Bais, who have not, as yet, been able to raise any money in Ujjain, and the spirited remonstrances of Mr. Perron, seem to have made some impression on the mind of Jaswant Rao Holkar, who threatens to withdraw from the confederacy, if he be not immediately gratified with an advance of four lakhs of rupees.

Lakwa Dada has repaired to Udaipur in the hope of prevailing on the Rana of that country to assist in relieving the present pecuniary embarrassments of the Bais. In the mean time his troops, under the command of Jaggu Bapu, have marched towards the city of Ujjain, in order to support those ladies.

Mr. Lewis, an officer in the service of Mr. Perron, has possessed himself of the city of Ajmere, and is now besieging its citadel, a place of considerable strength.

The Akhbars mention that Mr. Perron was to leave Koil for Mathura on the 6th instant. He has at present two battalions and five hundred horse at the latter station, and was to be joined there by the detachment under Mr. Pohlman ; but late disturbances in Rewari, and other districts,



appertaining to the *jaidad* of Mr. Pilose will, probably, occasion some alteration in this arrangement.

Mr. Perron has called on the Jaipur Raja, in terms of menace, to liquidate the balance of tribute due to Daulat Rao Sindhia.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have learned that Mr. Perron arrived at Mathura on the 7th of this month.

**No. 23.**—The Bais join Jaggu Bapu then at Jaora. Ambaji is more keen on restoring his own authority in Mewar than on putting down these rebels.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 15th November 1800.*

I have the honour to forward copies, and translates, of a dispatch from my agent in the Punjab, dated Amritsar, 21st October.

In my address of the 11th instant, I apprized Your Lordship of the violence and treachery practised against the Bais by Jaswant Rao Holkar and of the consequent flight of the former. Since then, I have been informed that the ladies escaped in safety to the camp of Jaggu Bapu at Jaora, a place situated about thirty *kos* to the north west of Ujjain.

Jaswant Rao has proposed a junction of forces with Ambaji, for the purpose of crushing Lakwa Dada; at the same time he suggested the necessity of prohibiting the farther advance of the Deccani battalions, lest the officer commanding might, through ignorance of the real state of affairs in Malwa, commence hostilities against his (Holkar's) troops. Ambaji is moving with his troops from Kotah towards Mewar and seems far more intent on re-establishing his own authority in that district, than concerned for the interests of the Prince, his master.

Lakwa Dada having prevailed on the Rana of Udaipur to advance him a small sum of money, about two lakhs of rupees, set off on the twenty-ninth ultimo for the camp of Jaggu Bapu.

Mr. Perron marched from Mathura on the 9th instant with three battalions of sepoys and five hundred horse. It is conjectured that this officer means to proceed to Jaipur for the purpose of compelling Partab Singh to pay without further evasion the balance of tribute (three lakhs of rupees) due to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 24.**—Movements of Perron, Ambaji and Lakwa Dada are reported. Exact plans of Lakwa Dada are still unknown.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 24th November 1800.*

I have the honour to forward copies and translates of the papers referred to in my address to Your Lordship of the 22nd instant together with a transcript and translation of a letter from my agent in the Punjab to Hussain Ali Khan.

In consequence of the near approach of Mr. Perron who had arrived within fourteen kos of the city of Jaipur on the 17th of this month, Raja Partab Singh has enjoined his ministers to use every exertion in order to raise the money which that officer demands from his government. It is supposed that when Mr. Perron has realized the balances of tribute due to Sindhia from the Rajas of Jaipur and Jodhpur, he will repair to Ajmere for the purpose of establishing the authority of the Maharaja in that province on a solid foundation.

Ambaji is at present employed in reducing a small fort in the Mewar district. He has been repeatedly called on by Jaswant Rao Holkar to march against the party of the Bais ; but though Ambaji promises fair, he has yet evinced no sincere disposition to comply with Holkar's requisitions on this subject.

It is by no means certain whither Lakwa Dada means to retire with the ladies of Sindhia's family ; some reports mention that this Chief proposes repairing to Udaipur ; others, again, state that it is his intention to seek an asylum in the subah of Gujrat.

My last accounts from the Deccan affirm that Sindhia's battalions of infantry, those which lately crossed the Narbada, are advancing towards Ujjain. This city has suffered greatly by the depredations of Jaswant Rao's followers although that Chieftain pretends to act in support of the authority of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 25.**—The forces of Jaswant Rao Holkar and Lakwa Dada are expected to come to grips soon, while Ambaji continues to be in Mewar.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 28th November 1800.*

On the 16th instant five Battalions of Sindhia's infantry and two hundred horse, arrived at Ujjain and encamped in the vicinity of that city.

Jaswant Rao Holkar marched from Ujjain on the preceding day, and advanced towards Lakwa Dada, who had arrived at Piploda village only twelve *kos* distant from the capital of Malwa (with an intention of attacking Holkar whose perfidy towards the Rais he was resolved to punish in the attempt).

Lakwaji has by the most indifatigable exertions collected a force of four thousand infantry, and one thousand cavalry. This little army he deemed sufficient for the purpose of chastising Jaswant Rao, but the arrival of Sindhia's battalions at Ujjain, has somewhat checked his ardour, and he seems at present determined to avoid an engagement until he be joined by Durjan Sal, who has promised to support him with twelve thousand Grassiahs. In the mean time, Lakwa is endeavouring to persuade the commandant of Sindhia's infantry to observe a strict neutrality between himself and Holkar.

I know not the name of the officer who commands the battalions at Ujjain, but I understand he is an old servant of Mahadji Patil, on which account Lakwa Dada entertains some faint hopes that he may be prevailed on to shew a certain degree of consternation for the unhappy situation of the ladies of that Chief's family.

The small fort in the Mewar district which Ambaji had invested was surrendered to him on the 17th instant; my agent who resides in the camp of that Chief writes to the following effect :

"Now that Lakwa Dada has marched against Jaswant Rao Holkar, Ambaji is likewise moving towards Jawad, where he means to wait the event of the contest after which this Chief will return to Mewar."

Mr. Perron is now encamped five *kos* to the southward of the city of Jaipur. He appears to have been completely successful in frightening Raja Partab Singh into a compliance with his pecuniary demands.

Syed Reza Khan writes from Delhi that the son of Bahawal Khan, the Chief of Bahawalpur had fled to Zaman Shah in order to prefer complaints against his father. That this young man also offered to pay a *peshkash* of ten lakhs of rupees provided the Shah would displace his father and put him in possession of the district of Bahawalpur. Syed Reza's intelligence further mentions that the Durrani Prince intended to march to Multan for the above purpose, and that on his return from this expedition he would again repair to Lahore.

I have the honour to enclose copies and translates of a dispatch from Mir Yusuf Ali Khan.

No. 26.—Collins narrates the successes of Lakwa Dada and his adherents in Malwa, and reports the movements of Jaswant Rao Holkar, Perron and Ambaji.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Ganga Ganga, 9th December 1800.*

Lakwa Dada, disappointed in his endeavours to detach the commanding officer of the regular Deccani battalions from co-operating with Jaswant Rao Holkar, found it expedient to withdraw his troops from the vicinity of Ujjain.

Accordingly this Chief directed his march towards Raghogarh, with intent to forming a junction with his friends the Grassiah Sardars. But on his arrival within a few *kos* of Shahjahanpur, having received intelligence of a detachment of Holkar's forces consisting of about four thousand horse and foot, being encamped near that city under the command of Meer Khan's brother, Lakwa instantly formed the resolution of attacking this body, and effected it with equal conduct and success.

It appears by my advices that after a short conflict the troops of Jaswant Rao being completely routed, fled to Purana leaving the enemy in possession of their camp, eleven pieces of cannon, some elephants, many camels and three hundred horses. Two hundred of Holkar's men were killed and wounded in this action and three hundred Rohillas made prisoners.

The foregoing occurred on the twenty-seventh *ultimo* and on the 30th of the same month Durjan Sal, the firm adherent of Lakwa Dada, defeated Balla Rao, Ambaji's brother, in the Subah of Malwa, and obliged him to fly for protection to the fortress of Arawn.

Mr. Perron having exacted payment of two lakhs of rupees from the Jaipur Raja, purposed leaving Jainagar on the 3rd instant, with the supposed design of proceeding towards the Jodhpur territory, in order to bring the Raja of that country to a proper settlement. However, it is by no means improbable that the recent successes of the Bais' party may induce either change or delay, in this measure. Bhim Singh has already been deprived of his portion of the city of Sambhar by Mr. Pohlman who has assumed possession of this Prince's revenues collected therefrom by order of Mr. Perron.

Ambaji is at present employed in reducing Jawad, a fort of inconsiderable strength in the district of Mewar and subject to the authority of Lakwaji.

I have to acquaint Your Lordship of my having moved nearly eight *kos* from Fatehgarh for change of air, and of my intention to return to cantonments on the 13th of this month.



## SECTION 2

*Affairs of Sindhia, 12 August 1801 to 16 October 1802*

**No. 27**—Collins describes in detail the efforts of Sindhia to strengthen his own forces, and also forwards a return of the disposition and number of the forces commanded by M. Perron.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 12th August 1801.*

The recent successes of Jaswant Rao Holkar in Malwa, have apparently brought Sindhia to his recollection, since he is collecting a very considerable force on the banks of the Narbada, and has declared his determination to act solely on the defensive, until he has assembled an

army superior in strength and equipment to that of his enemy. At the same time the Maharaja is taking precautions to prevent Holkar's troops from crossing the Narbada; and had directed Gopal Rao to march with the utmost expedition towards Sendhwa where Kashi Rao Holkar now resides, in order to be a check on the operations of this Chief, should he evince a design of exciting commotions in Khandesh.

Sindhia seems much alarmed at the present situation of his affairs, and impressed with a high sense of the danger to which he is now exposed by his own imprudence, and procrastination. M. Perron and Begum Sumru have been ordered to join him, with the least possible delay, with their respective forces. It is not likely, however, that this order will be obeyed by the Begum, but M. Perron promised to comply therewith as soon as he shall have accommodated the existing differences between Mr. George Thomas and the Sikh Sardars. I am likewise informed that the Maharaja had enjoined Ambaji Rao to endeavour by every means in his power, to conciliate the Bais and their adherents.

My advices from Ujjain mention that Jaswant Rao has actually written to Sindhia, offering to suspend all hostilities, as preparatory to an amicable reconciliation, provided the person of the boy Khande Rao Holkar be delivered up to him; on the other hand, he threatens eternal enmity to the Maharaja, should this proposition be rejected.

I learn from Syed Reza Khan, that Mr. George Thomas has consented to join and serve M. Perron in consideration of a monthly stipend of forty thousand rupees, with permission to retain the fortress of Hansi. All other parganas which he possesses to the north-west of Delhi, are to be relinquished in favour of M. Filose, to whose *jaidad* they appertain. Syed Reza also affirms, that a treaty to this effect has been signed by M. Perron, on the part of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and that Mr. Thomas is, in consequence, shortly expected.

It appears that M. Perron has already dismissed many of the old and confidential servants of His Majesty, in opposition to the wishes and earnest entreaties of Shah Alam. I understand M. Dugeon is appointed to act as M. Perron's deputy in the Subahship of Delhi, and not M. Bernier, as was first reported.

M. Perron having of late greatly augmented his forces, I deem it my duty to furnish Your Lordship with a return thereof, specifying as well the disposition as the number of the different corps subject to the command of that officer.

**No. 27A—Enclosure.***A Return of the Disposition and Number of the Forces commanded by M. Perron.*

	Guns attached to Infy. Corps.	Guns belonging to the Park of a large calibre.	Cavalry.	Battalions of Sepoys.	Strength of the Aly Ghola Corps.
At Seetaram's <i>rai</i> , under M. Perron's immediate command ..	47	5	4,600	9	500
With Daulat Rao Sindia under the command of Mr. Sindia ..	35	..	..	7	..
In the Zilla of Saharanpur (A) ..	20	4	1,000	2	..
In the province and garrison of Ajmere (a) ..	15	..	108	1	..
At Koil ..	5	10	..	1	..
In the Zilla of Sonpat ..	10	..	..	2	..
At Muttra ..	30	20	200	6	..
In the vicinity of Delhi ..	..	..	500	..	..
Total ..	162	39	6,408	28	500

*N.B.*—The complement of each sepoy battalion is 550 rank and file.

(A) Two battalions of sepoys, in the service of Begam Sumroo, are acting in the Zilla, in conjunction with the troops of M. Perron.

(a) Exclusive of M. Perron's troops, two of Begum Sumroo's battalions are also serving in this Suba.

**No. 28—Sindhia's forces under Brownrigg take up their position near Unchawad to oppose Holkar. Another big army is gathering under the command of Pohlman at Mathura to march to Malwa to Sindhia's help.**

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 26th August 1801.*

In consequence of the late heavy and incessant rains in these parts, the arrival of the daks from Sindhia's camp is very uncertain, being



frequently retarded by the overflowing of the *Nallas*. Thence it is, I imagine, that I have received no dispatches from thence of a later date than the 5th instant. Their contents inform me, that the Maharaja has pushed forward a detachment, consisting of nine battalions of sepoys, three thousand cavalry, and sixty pieces of cannon as far as Unchawad, about thirty-five kos from Ujjain, for the purpose of forming a strong encampment on the northern side of that pass. This force is entrusted to the command of Mr. Brownrigg, an officer of reputed ability.

Sindhia himself remains in his former post, on the southern bank of the Narbada, with six battalions of infantry, and nearly one thousand horse; nor is it expected that he will quit this position until he be joined by Sharzaji Ghatge and Gopal Bhau. But in the meantime, the Maharaja is making considerable levies of cavalry, and a body of two thousand is now on its march from Ahmednagar to reinforce him.

Gopal Bhau has apprized Sindhia that he deems it advisable to remain some time longer in the vicinity of *Pythia* on account of the *Bavan Paga* Sardars, who have renewed hostilities in that quarter; but Sindhia in reply has directed the Bhau to leave those insurgents to the chastisement of the Peshwa, and to proceed himself with the utmost expedition towards the Narbada. Sharzaji Ghatge has passed the Ganga Godawari, on his march to join the Maharaja.

Jaswant Rao Holkar appears to have derived little advantage, as yet, from his late victory. At present he is solely intent on exacting contributions from the opulent inhabitants of the city of Ujjain, of whom he demands payment of fifteen lakhs of rupees. This Chief entertains hopes of assistance from his brother Kashi Rao Holkar, who has recently complimented Jaswant Rao with a *khilat*, on occasion of his successes over the troops of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

M. Dudrenec who commanded six battalions in the service of Jaswant Rao, has been induced, at the instigation of his countryman M. Perron, to desert the cause of his master; but a timely advance of money by Shyam Rao Mahadik, one of Holkar's principal Sardars preserved the sepoys in their duty, and M. Dudrenec is now in strict confinement at Kotah, in consequence of his treachery. But though the object of his attempt has failed, yet it may eventually prove injurious to the interests of Jaswant Rao, since an intimate connexion subsists between the traitor and M. Plumet; and I understand the latter has solicited leave to repair to Kotah under the pretext of his presence being necessary there for the protection of his family and property, but most likely his view is to obtain the enlargement of the person of his father-in-law, M. Dudrenec.

Mr. George Thomas has paid his respects to M. Perron, and was received, on the morning of the 19th instant, with much apparent regard and respect. In the evening, Mr. Thomas returned to his own encampment, which is distant about five *kos* from Bahadurgah, where this interview took place. Daulat Rao Sindhia has given Mr. George Thomas the most solemn assurances that he will faithfully adhere to such engagements as may be entered into by M. Perron on his part.

A large detachment is now assembling at Muttra, under the inspection of M. Fohl..., destined for the Malwa province. Should this force which consists of ten regular battalions and two hundred cavalry, be joined by the corps with M. Perron at Bahadurgah, the whole would form an army far superior to any that Jaswant Rao Holkar could bring into the field.

I do myself the honour to forward a *kharita* to Your Lordship's address from the ladies of Sindhia's family. The persons referred in this letter, which was transmitted enclosed for my perusal, have taken up their residence on the banks of Farrukhabad, where they mean to continue until they are apprized of Your Lordship's disposition towards their principals.

In consideration of the enmity subsisting between Sindhia and the Bais, I do not conceive myself at liberty to admit of a visit from their agents without the previous sanction of Your Lordship. Being, however, fully informed of the nature of the several requests which they are instructed to prefer on the part of those ladies, I take the liberty of forwarding a statement thereof for Your Lordship's information.

I have the honour to inclose a *kharita* for Your Lordship from the Patiala Raja.

No. 28A—Enclosure.

*Substance of a communication made by Nawab Wajiuddin Khan, Raja Munnu Lal, and Rai Nathuram, to Munshi Hussain Ali Khan, on the part of the Bais.*

Bearing in mind the ties of friendship which long subsisted between the government of the Company Bahadur and that of the late Maharaja Alijah Patil, the Bai Sahibs have deputed us to Colonel Collins, for the purpose of communicating the following requests, in the hope that the regard due to the honour of the family of an old friend (meaning the late Maharaja) will induce the Colonel to submit the same to the consideration of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

After the demise of Maharaja Alijah Patil, when we placed Daulat Rao Sindhia on the *masnad*, it was in the persuasion that our government would acquire additional strength and reputation, and that consistently with the rules of filial duty he would, in a becoming manner, study to obey and serve us. But, instigated by certain narrow-minded persons he has behaved altogether contrary to our expectations, having resolved upon our ruin, and unjustly put to death most of the old Sardars who were well-wishers of the government. Even now, regardless of consequences, he is weakening the reins of government by the advice of certain incendiaries and of Frenchmen who, under the pretence of being his friends, are only securing their own private interests. Therefore, we solicit succour from the Company's Sarkar for the purpose of assisting us to deprive Daulat Rao Sindhia of the power, which he so unworthily exercises over the territories of the late Maharaja Alijah Patil Bahadur.

But should the British Government deem it improper at present to afford us their aid for the foregoing purpose, we have then to request, that through the interposition of His Excellency the Governor General, a good understanding may be re-established between us and Daulat Rao Sindhia, and that a suitable *jagir* be assigned by him for our maintenance.

If neither of the two preceding requests can be complied with, yet as we are the relics of the friend of the Company Bahadur, and as no dignified personage could approve of our being ruined and disgraced by the evil-disposed men who preside over Sindhia's counsels, we at least trust that an asylum will be granted to ourselves and dependants, either in the dominion of the English, or in the territory of the Nawab Vazir, in order that we may hereafter live in safety under the protection of the British Government.

**No. 29**—Collins informs the Governor General of the break-down of negotiations between Perron and Thomas, and adds that due to the critical situation of Sindhia's affairs Perron would not think of getting himself involved in hostilities with Thomas and the Sikhs.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 10th September 1801.*

Mr. George Thomas having greatly risen his demands on M. Perron, after their late interview, the negotiation pending between them has

been broken off, even at the moment when it was generally supposed that the terms of the proposed treaty has been mutually agreed on. The former has fallen back to Jind, which country is again suffering his violence and rapacity: and the latter marched to Jhajjhar, in order to establish the authority of M. Filose in that district, which forms part of his *jaidad*.

Previous to the departure of Mr. Thomas from Bahadurgarh, he executed a written instrument by which he formally relinquishes all claims on Jhajjhar in favour of Vaman Rao, the *amil* of Khanon [Kanaud?], on the part of Daulat Rao Sindhia. This pretended cession seems to have been made solely with a view of creating misunderstanding between M. Perron and Vaman Rao.

In consequence of the renewed depredations in Jind by Mr. George Thomas, the Raja of that country and other Khalsa Sardars who had repaired to M. Perron on the promise of protection, called on this officer to fulfil his engagements; and as he evaded giving that immediate assistance which the emergency of their affairs required, and which indeed he had encouraged them to expect, these Sikh chiefs, justly incensed at the duplicity of his conduct, seem disposed to withdraw themselves from any further connection with him, and to seek a reconciliation with Mr. George Thomas.

The fact, as it appears to me, is, that the Frenchman who is fully aware of the present critical situation of Sindhia's affairs, would not willingly involve himself in hostilities with Mr. Thomas whose tergiversation, however, he will hereafter remember, while on the other hand, it is likely that Mr. George Thomas is desirous of avoiding any positive agreement which would deprive him of the advantages he now derives from the plunder of the Sikhs, until he sees the result of the existing warfare between the Maharaja and Jaswant Rao Holkar. The march of M. Pohlman towards Ujjain is countermanded until further orders.

The late uncommonly heavy rains have apparently occasioned a temporary suspension of active military operations in the province of Malwa, since Jaswant Rao still continues in the vicinity of Ujjain, and the detachment commanded by Mr. Brownrigg has not yet moved from its old ground of encampment near the pass of Unchawad.

**No. 30**—Collins informs the Governor General of the implicit faith of Sindhia in Perron and points out that Perron might prove harmful to the British interests in India. Collins supplies details of the forces of Sindhia in Khandesh and Malwa, and adds information of the latest developments in his relations with Jaswant Rao Holkar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 19th September 1801.*

I have this day received several dispatches from the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia at Hindia, which bring advices up to the 1st of this month.

Sharzaji Ghatge joined the Maharaja on the 20th ultimo. In the first private conference which this minister held with Sindhia, he strongly remonstrated on the impolicy of entrusting the important fortresses of Ajmer, Agra, Shahajahanabad and Aligarh to M. Perron, as well on the imprudence of assigning to him in *jaidad* so large a proportion of his territories in this quarter. Sharzaji also remarked, that the Maharaja might at some future period be placed in a critical situation, should he feel the necessity of depriving M. Perron of the command of those forts, for it was natural to suppose that this officer would be altogether disinclined to surrender them on any conditions. But admitting, Ghatge further urged, the policy of his being admitted to retain those places during the present disturbances, yet the administration of affairs at Delhi should at all event be instantly taken from him, as his continuance in the control of that metropolis might tend to excite jealousy among other powers. In reply to these arguments Sindhia simply said, "I have the highest confidence in the fidelity of M. Perron".

It may, I think, be inferred from the foregoing remarks on the part of Sharzaji, that he would readily give his support to any measures which had for their object the diminution of the influence and power now possessed by M. Perron in Sindhia's Government, and which I cannot but apprehend, if not timely reduced, may eventually be exercised to the prejudice of the British interests in India. Since, under an appearance of humility, this officer seems to me to entertain ambitious and extensive

views ; and that he is by no means deficient in the arts of management and conciliation, would appear as well from the favour he has acquired with Sindhia, as from the address with which he has reconciled His Majesty Shah Alam to the late abrupt change in the superintendence of the Subahdari of Delhi, the king having at first testified great displeasure thereat, as well as dissatisfaction at the conduct of M. Perron on his assuming that charge.

Sindhia, from my last intelligence, expected soon to be reinforced by above six thousand cavalry, four battalions of infantry, and twenty-two pieces of cannon, which were advancing rapidly towards the Narbada, under the charge of Sharzaji's brother and Gopal Bhau. On the arrival of this detachment, it will be ordered to join the troops stationed near the pass of Unchawad ; and when this event has taken place, the united force will proceed, under the command of Sharzaji Ghatge, and Colonel Sutherland towards Ujjain. Balla Rao, Ambaji's brother, is arrived in the camp of the Maharaja but brought with him only an escort of two hundred horse.

A person in Sindhia's confidence has been deputed to Jaswant Rao Holkar for the avowed purpose of accommodating all differences. This agent was authorized to offer the immediate surrender of Khande Rao and the people of his family to Jaswant Rao, in order to obtain peace ; but Holkar now further demands the restoration of certain parganas, of which his father had been dispossessed by Mahadji Patil ; likewise a faithful observance of the former amicable connection which existed between their ancestors ; and that these terms should be guaranteed by the most respectable Sardars in the service of each chieftain.

M. Jean Baptiste who commanded six battalions of sepoy at Jhajjar on the part of M. Filose, has been arrested by M. Perron, with whom these corps have been prevailed upon to take service. This arrest was in consequence of orders from Sindhia ; but no reason has been assigned.

The Akhbars from M. Perron's camp mention, that he has at length consented to march against Mr. George Thomas at the instances of the Sikh Chiefs who have engaged to pay M. Perron 50,000 rupees per month, for six months certain.

I have the honour to enclose a return of the troops of Daulat Rao Sindhia in the Subas of Khandesh and Malwa.

## No. 30A—Enclosure.

*A Return of the Number and Description of Maharaja Daulat Rao's troops in the Subas of Khandesh and Malwa.*

	Guns of various Calibres.	Guns attached to Infantry Corps.	Hindustani and Deccani Cavalry.	Pindaris.	Battalions.	Mewati Pindahs.
With Sindhia.. ..	25	24	5,000	..	(A) 4	500
Under the command of Sardar Sheo and Mr. Brownrigg, near Unchawad .. ..	20	36	10,000	5,000	(B) 9	500
Under the command of Sharzaji's elder brother and Gopal Bhau, now on their march to join Sindhia .. ..	..	22	6,200	..	..	..
Total ..	45	82	21,200	5,000	17	1,000

(A) One of these battalions is attached to Mr. Sutherland's brigade, the other three to M. Filose's.

(B) Six of these corps are subject to the command of Mr. Sutherland, and the other three to Filose.

(C) These battalions belong to Mr. Sutherland's brigade.

**No. 31**—Collins informs the Governor General about the message brought by Ambaji's agent asking for British help to oust Perron from his dominating position in Hindustan. He also gives details of the events preceding the battle of Indore and the latest developments in the struggle between Thomas and Perron.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 23rd October 1801.*

I learn from Hakim Kamgar Khan who arrived at Fatehgarh some days ago, that he was instructed, by order of Daulat Rao Sindhia,

to exert his utmost address in order to counteract the designs of the Bais by preventing the success of their Vakils in the object of their present mission. The Hakim, however, was soon perfectly satisfied on this head when I informed him that I had all along refused to receive any visit from these men; of which fact indeed he had been previously apprized by his friends in the city of Farrukhabad.

I also learn that Ambaji has, in confidence, directed this agent to explain to Your Lordship the disgraceful and dangerous situation to which the old ministers and principal Sardars of the late Mahadji Patil have been reduced in consequence of the extraordinary powers vested in M. Perron who, to use Kamgar Khan's own expression, "does what he pleases in the government of the Maharaja." The Hakim likewise declares that his master, who is in constant dread of being dishonoured, is extremely desirous that Your Lordship should interpose to prevail on Sindhia to expel "this base nation," and to restore the old ministers of the Sarkar to their former dignities. In short, it was sufficiently apparent from the discourse of Kamgar Khan, although he met with no encouragement to disclose his sentiments from me, that Ambaji is anxious to obtain the protection of the British Government; in return for which he would, I believe, feel no hesitation in entering into any engagements which could in reason be expected from him, and even consent to send his family, either to Bithur or Benares, there to remain as hostages for his good faith.

In reply to the foregoing discourse I observed that the British Government being connected by ties of amity and friendship with Daulat Rao Sindhia, Your Lordship in consequence had invariably shewn a proper regard for the real interests of the Maharaja, but that it was impossible for me to say how far it might appear consistent and right in Your Lordship's judgment to offer Sindhia any advice on a subject so very delicate as that which he (the Hakim) had introduced. However, when admitted to Your Lordship's presence he would have an opportunity of giving a full explanation respecting the nature of his employer's wishes and of detailing the particular causes which had induced them. In the mean time I could assure him, Your Lordship had formed a favourable opinion of Ambaji Rao's character from the well-known zeal and fidelity, he had heretofore shewn, as well in Sindhia's services as in that of his predecessor, the late Mahadji Patil.

Kamgar Khan concluded this conversation with a remark, that in his opinion it would redound to the honour of the English Government to use its influence in favour of the many respectable Sardars who had been ill-treated and disgraced by the means, chiefly, of M. Perron, since at the same time it would eventually promote the true interests of the Maharaja, of which, from his inexperienced youth, he as yet could form



no correct judgment. But should Your Lordship decline all interference, that Amba i at least hoped he might be granted an asylum in the territories of the honourable Company, it being his unalterable resolution to relinquish all employ under Daulat Rao, Sindhia while Frenchmen continued in his service.

Sharzaji Ghatge and Colonel Sutherland joined the troops near Unchawad on the 1st instant, since when Sindhia's army in that quarter has advanced within three kos of Indore, capital of the Holkar Chiefs. In consequence of this movement Jaswant Rao immediately withdrew the whole of his force from Ujjain, and proceeded by rapid marches to Indore, where he arrived just in time to prevent the city from insult and plunder.

Since the 5th instant there have been several skirmishes between the contending armies in Malwa but the general result thereof has been of little or no importance to either party. It is, however, supposed that a decisive action will shortly take place, Jaswant Rao having been joined by all his infantry, and as he expects no further reinforcements, it is evidently his interest to bring on a battle before the arrival of the battalions advancing towards Indore under the command of M. Pohlman.

Since my last address to Your Lordship of the 8th instant, I have learnt that Mr. Hearsey, with the corps that were left under his command at Hansi, has effected a junction with Mr. George Thomas. It appears also from my advices that Major Louis attempted to intercept the reinforcement, but without success, owing to a judicious movement on the part of Mr. George Thomas who joined Mr. Hearsey in time to support his detachment; the engagement that followed was bravely contested on both sides, but the advantage seems to have been with Mr. Thomas, since he effectually protected a large convoy of ammunition and provisions which he conducted to his camp without loss.

Notwithstanding this success, the situation of Mr. George Thomas still must be considered as critical, as Major Louis, since the action above-mentioned, has been joined by some thousands of Sikh cavalry and four battalions of sepoys under the command of Mr. Perron and Bapuji Sindhia.

I am just informed that on the arrival of Monsour, an officer in the service of Sindhia took possession of Ujjain soon after Holkar withdrew his troops from thence.

M. Perron is still at Koil, from whence he constantly supplies the camp of Major Louis with ammunition and stores of every description.

I should, ere this, have solicited permission to pay my personal respects to Your Lordship, had I not been restrained by an apprehension that a request of this nature might be censured as being premature, if not intrusive; but Your Lordship's near approach to the Vazir's provinces, removes, in a measure, the first cause of apprehension; and, I must confess, I would rather hazard the imputation of the second, than by the least seeming neglect be deemed deficient in that respectful attention towards Your Lordship, which both my duty and my inclination strongly prompt me to express. At the same time, however, I may encroach too much on Your Excellency's time. I will only add, that should I be fortunate enough to obtain permission to attend Your Lordship, I am prepared to avail myself of that honour immediately, either by land or by water.

**No. 32**—Collins informs the Governor General about the defeat of Jaswant Rao Holkar at the hands of Daulat Rao Sindhia in the battle of Indore and the flight of Jaswant Rao to Kushalgarh.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 25th October 1801.*

I have this instant been informed by my native agent at Ujjain, that on the 14th instant, the forces of Daulat Rao Sindhia gained a complete victory over the troops of Jaswant Rao Holkar in a general engagement which took place in the vicinity of Indore.

My intelligence which came express, merely states, that the action was extremely severe; that all the artillery and baggage belonging to the enemy had fallen into the hands of Sindhia's officers; and that a detachment of cavalry from Sindhia's army had gone in pursuit of Jaswant Rao, who had fled towards the hill fort of Kushalgarh, attended [by] only one hundred horsemen.

**No. 33**—Collins informs the Governor General of the defeat of Jaswant Rao and the plunder of Indore, and adds that Sindhia is determined to increase his own forces.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 30th October 1801.*

Ganpat Rai, my native agent with Sindhia, assures me, M. Perron has repeatedly written to the Maharaja to the following effect: that Your

Lordship's journey towards these parts must have been undertaken for the attainment of some very important object, regarding which, however, various reports prevailed : that he (M. Perron) having gained over the Sikhs, Sindhia would enter into an intimate union of interests with the Peshwa, Raghobhonsla and the Gaikwad ; and whenever the existing differences with Jaswant Rao Holkar shall be composed, that the Maharaja should proceed, without delay, towards his possessions in this quarter. Ganpat Rai further asserts, that Sindhia is determined on augmenting his Hindustani and Deccani cavalry to fifty thousand strong, exclusive of twenty-five thousand Pindaris, and whose temporary services he means to engage.

Daulat Rao Sindhia's *pesh-khema* was sent forward to the northern side of the Narbada, on the 16th instant ; and the Maharaja had fixed on the 19th for crossing that river, together with the troops which remained with him at Handia for the protection of his person.

My *Akhbar-nawis* who resided in the camp of Jaswant Rao Holkar, has not been heard of since the defeat of that Chief ; I learn, however, from my native agent at Ujjain that the recent victory which was so easily obtained by Sindhia's forces, may in a great degree be ascribed to the treachery of the officers who commanded Holkar's infantry on the occasion, they being accused of acting in concert with Sharzaji Ghatge ; and there can be little doubt but that the desertion of M. Plumet had considerably weakened the attachment of many sepoy-corps to the cause of Jaswant Rao.

The city of Indore was exposed to all the horrors incident to an indiscriminate plunder, during two successive days, to gratify at once the vengeance of Sindhia and the rapacious avarice of his troops ; but, on the third following, tranquillity was restored, and the authority of the Maharaja fully established.

Jaswant Rao, and a large proportion of his horse, have reached Kushalgarh in safety ; and although the total loss of this Chieftain's artillery, and the dispersion of his sepoys' battalions may incapacitate him from opposing Sindhia in the field, yet he still possesses sufficient means to create great distress in the Malwa province by carrying on a depredatory war.

In consequence of Sindhia's late successes in Malwa, M. Pohlman has reduced his force by detaching four battalions towards Mathura, for the supposed purpose of cooperating with the troops now employed against Georgegarh ; and it appears by the Delhi Akhbars, that this fortress is already completely invested on all sides by the numerous bodies of cavalry and infantry which Major Louis has drawn together, and that all kinds of provisions bore an exorbitant price in the camp of

Mr. Thomas ; but the position taken by this officer is : very strong, and the redoubts that cover his encampment have been erected with so much military skill, that his enemies have abandoned all hope of subduing him by force, and trust the accomplishment of their objects to the slow yet certain effects of famine.

**No. 34**—Collins informs the Governor General that a secret agent has been sent to Ranjit Singh by Perron, and adds the latest news from the Punjab.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 14th November 1801.*

I have just now received advices mentioning that on the night of the 10th instant Mr. Thomas fled from George-garh with his cavalry, towards the fort of Hansi ; that the whole of his artillery and baggage had been captured, and his sepoy-corps completely plundered ; that the fortress of George-garh was in the possession of M. Lewis, whose cavalry were gone in pursuit of Mr. Thomas.

Kamgar Khan has been informed by his brother, Namdar Khan, who is at present under [ ] with M. Perron as wakil on the part of Ambaji Rao, that the Frenchman lately deputed a confidential servant, named Sadasukh, to the court of Lahore Raja with instructions to endeavour to prevail on Ranjit Singh to join M. Perron with all his forces ; and that Sadasukh was fully empowered to accede to any pecuniary conditions which the Sikh Chieftain might demand in consideration of assistance. Namdar Khan also affirms, that M. Perron was induced to adopt this extraordinary measure from an apprehension that Your Lordship had in contemplation, as an object of your journey, to effect some important changes in Sindhia's Government destructive of his own interests.

Although Namdar Khan actually advised Kamgar Khan to the foregoing purport (his letter on this subject having been submitted to my perusal), yet I am far from placing implicit belief therein ; since these brothers have long been notorious for intrigue, as well as for a total disregard to truth, and there can be little doubt, I conceive, but that their employer, Ambaji Rao, would approve of any means which they might use in order to impress Your Lordship with an unfavourable opinion of the designs and conduct of M. Perron, of whose power he is alike jealous and apprehensive.

It is, however, very certain that M. Perron has sent Sadasukh on some secret service ; and it appears, I think, rather suspicious, that the

former should propagate a report, as my native agent with him says he has, that Sadasukh was on his way to me for the purpose of being introduced to Your Lordship ; since I have strong grounds to discredit his assertion on this head, his vakil having left Koil twenty-two days ago, while the journey from that place hither might be performed in ten days with every degree of convenience.

Accounts from Lahore, Amritsar and Delhi, concur in stating that an engagement had taken place between the troops of Mahmud Shah and Shuja-ul-Mulk, near Jallalabad, wherein the latter was defeated and taken prisoner. It further appears from the Lahore and Amritsar letters, that the authority of Mahamud Shah had been established in the city of Peshawar.

Daulat Rao Sindhia crossed to the northern side of the Narbada on the 19th ultimo ; since when no advices have reached me from Malwa, the daks from that quarter having been either cut off or impeded in consequence, I suppose, of the distracted state of affairs to the southward.

**No. 35**—Collins is asked to meet the Governor General either at Benares or Cawnpur and arrange to start thence immediately for the camp of Sindhia.

**FROM**—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

**TO**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Ghazipur, 16th November 1801.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to signify to you, that the general complexion of affairs in Hindustan appearing to His Lordship to render a personal communication with you at this time extremely desirable, it is His Lordship's wish that you should proceed with such a degree of expedition as may not interfere with your personal convenience, and meet him at Benares, or on His Lordship's way from that place to Cawnpur.

I am further directed to inform you, that it is His Lordship's intention that after taking leave of him, you should proceed without delay to the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia ; His Lordship, therefore, desires that previously to your departure from Fatehgarh, you will make the arrangement necessary to enable you to prosecute your march to Sindhia's camp by the most direct route from Benares, or from whatever place

you may take leave of His Lordship, unless circumstances should exist which may make your previous return to Fatehgarh necessary, or may render your march to Sindhia's camp by a less circuitous route impracticable ; in either of which cases you will regulate your preparations with a view to preclude any unnecessary detention after your return to Fatehgarh.

**No. 36**—The Governor General is informed that Collins has started from Fatehgarh for Ujjain.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp beyond Delia, 21st December 1801.*

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship of my having this day commenced my march from Fatehgarh, and of my intention to prosecute my journey towards Ujjain, by the way of Agra, Fateh(pur Sikri), Hindaun, Oniara, Rampoorra, Bundi, Kotah, &c. &c. with all practicable expedition.

By pursuing the foregoing route, I shall be relieved from the necessity of an interview with Ambaji Rao, which might possibly excite the jealousy of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and at the same time shall avoid the districts of such chiefs as are avowedly hostile to the interests of the Maharaja.

My last advices from the Malwa province affirm, that Jaswant Rao Holkar had proposed sending a confidential servant to Sindhia in order to treat of peace ; and that the latter chieftain had consented to receive this Wakil.

**No. 37**—The Governor General is supplied with the information received from the Raja of Ballamgarh about the hostile intentions of Perron towards the English.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Hindaun, 8th January 1802.*

Bahadur Singh, Raja of Ballamgarh, writes privately to my Munshi Hussain Ali Khan, to the following purpose :

" Gulam Mahomad Khan (formerly vakil on the part of Zaman Shah) arrived here from Koil two days ago. On enquiring into the object of his present journey, he being ignorant of the friendship subsisting between Colonel Collins and me, said that M. Perron had deputed him to Mahmud Shah for the purpose of prevailing on that Prince to repair to Hindustan, where he would find his (Perron's) troops prepared for war against the English; that should the Shah decline this invitation, or delay his march hither, the English would, ere long, destroy both states; whereas if the Durrani and Marathas were united, no power on earth could injure them." Bahadur Singh concludes his letter by expressing a firm belief that M. Perron entertains most hostile designs against the English.

Raja Bahadur Singh possesses a small tract of country about fifteen *kos* to the eastward of 4885 [?]. I do not understand that he has any particular cause of complaint against M. Perron; and his character certainly stands as fair as that of any other native chief with whom I correspond; nevertheless I should by no means feel disposed to credit this intelligence, it being of so extraordinary a nature, were it not in some degree corroborated by the following circumstances; 1st, Kamgar Khan, previous to his departure from Fatehgarh assured me, M. Perron had it in contemplation to form an alliance with Mahmud Shah: 2nd, Ally, *Akhbar-navis* at Koil, affirms that M. Perron had several private conferences there with Gulam Mahomed, and that on the departure of this Vakil from thence, he was presented with 5,000 rupees; lastly, my advices from Hansi mention, that Sadasukh, Perron's confidential agent, left that place on the 28th ultimo in order to proceed to Lahore.

M. Louis took possession of the fortress of Hansi on the 29th of last month; my last accounts from thence state, that Mr. Thomas and his European officers were liberated and [are] on their way to Delhi. It is said, that Perron was highly displeased with M. Louis for coming to an accommodation with Mr. Thomas.

Sindhia is at present encamped fifteen *kos* to the southward of Ujjain. The Vakil deputed to him by Jaswant Rao Holkar has been dismissed; and there appears little probability of the negotiation being renewed, since Holkar demands the enlargement of Khande Rao, to which concession Sindhia is altogether averse; while, on the other hand, the Maharaja insists on the payment of three crores of rupees in compensation for the plunder of Ujjain, etc. a sum of money far beyond the ability of Jaswant Rao to command.

Lakwa Dada is now in the district of Mewad soliciting pecuniary assistance from the Rana of Udaipur. This Maratha chief has

no more than 4,000 horse in his service, and these he subsists by depredations.

I have the honour to forward a *kharita* to Your Lordship's address from the Raja of Lahore.

*P.S.*—I found it necessary to halt one day at this place to refresh the cattle.

**No. 38**—Collins is given definite instructions regarding the negotiations to be conducted with Sindhia to establish a defensive alliance between him and the English.

**FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Cawnpore, 15th January 1802.*

Although you have already been made acquainted, in the course of your conferences with His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, with his sentiments and views upon the subject of the connection which it is in the contemplation of His Excellency to establish with Daulat Rao Sindhia, His Excellency, deeming it expedient that you should be furnished with regular instructions for the guidance of your conduct in the negotiation which has been intrusted to your charge, has directed me to communicate to you the following observations and orders.

As you have had access to all the correspondence and the documents upon the subject of the negotiations conducted under His Excellency's orders at the courts of Hyderabad and Poona, for the purpose of establishing a system of general defensive alliance between the British power and the several states of Hindustan, you are already apprized of the nature and extent of His Excellency's views with respect to that important arrangement, and of the progress and result of the negotiations at the several courts of Hyderabad, Poona and Nagpur.

The events which have lately occurred in Hindustan, and the actual situation of the affairs of Daulat Rao Sindhia, appear to His Excellency to afford a more favourable opportunity than any which has hitherto offered, of persuading that Chieftain to become a party in the proposed system of defensive alliance and reciprocal guarantee, under the provisions of the treaty concluded with His Highness the Nizam on the 12th of October 1800.



It may reasonably be expected that the success of a negotiation for that purpose with Daulat Rao Sindhia, will materially promote the complete accomplishment of His Excellency's views by inducing the other Maratha powers to concur in the proposed arrangement, with a view to avoid the dependent and subordinate condition to which they must be reduced by their exclusion from an alliance, of which the operation, with respect to them, must be to control all ambitious views and aggressive designs on their part, without affording to those powers the benefits of the general guarantee.

It is, therefore, the primary object of your present mission to obtain the accession of Daulat Rao Sindhia to the general defensive alliance, under the same conditions as those which have been established with His Highness the Nizam.

A copy of the treaty concluded with His Highness on the 12th October 1800 is enclosed; and with a view to assist your judgment in the conduct of the negotiations, I am directed to transmit to you a copy of His Excellency's instructions to the Resident at Hyderabad, under date the 15th of June, 1800, containing a comprehensive detail of His Excellency's views and sentiments with respect to the whole question of general defensive alliance and guarantee.

The general conditions which, in conformity to the proposed arrangement, it is desirable that Sindhia should accede, are: 1st, to subsidize a considerable British force to be stationed within his dominions: 2nd, to cede, in perpetual sovereignty to the Company, an extent of territory, the net produce of which shall be adequate to the charges of that force: 3rd, to admit the arbitration of the British Government in all disputes and differences between Sindhia and His Highness the Nizam, and eventually between Sindhia and the other states of Hindustan: and, 4th, to dismiss all the subjects of France now in his service, and to pledge himself never to entertain in his service persons of that description.

These conditions, however desirable, are not to be considered to be indispensable. His Lordship will be disposed to admit Sindhia to the benefit of the guarantee under a considerable modification of those conditions.

I am directed to state the modifications in each of the conditions above-specified, to which His Excellency would be disposed to assent.

It is extremely desirable that Sindhia should consent to subsidize the same number of British troops as is subsidized by His Highness the Nizam. Adverting, however, to the jealousy of the Maratha character, His Excellency entertains considerable doubt of Sindhia's consent to

subsidize so large a force, unless the situation of Sindhia's affairs should be such as to render the adoption of that measure the only alternative for the security of his possessions. His Excellency does not deem it to be indispensably necessary to insist on the extent of this condition, but is willing to agree to a limitation of the subsidiary force, provided that it be not less than two battalions, or one regiment. It must, however, be understood, that in the event of any limitation in the proposed subsidiary force, Sindhia cannot be entitled to claim from the British Government the same extent of military aid, under any exigency, that the British Government is pledged eventually to furnish in favour of His Highness the Nizam. His Excellency considers it an object of considerable importance, that the subsidiary force should be stationed within Sindhia's dominions; but His Excellency is disposed to dispense with that article also, if it should be found impracticable to obtain Sindhia's consent to it.

With regard to the cession of territory for the payment of the subsidiary force, there can be little doubt that Sindhia will prefer that mode of defraying the expense to the actual disbursement of money from his treasury for that purpose; you are aware of the importance of obtaining for the Company the cession of the part of the Doab which is in Sindhia's possession. His Excellency, therefore, directs that you exert your endeavours to obtain the cession of the whole, or an adequate proportion of that possession in commutation for the subsidy. It is extremely important in the event of Sindhia's agreement to a cession of territory in the Doab, that the fortresses of Agra and Delhi, especially the former, should also be ceded to the Company.

The same considerations, however, which render that acquisition an object of importance to the British Government, will probably operate with Sindhia as a motive for withholding his consent to the cession of that territory upon the general principle of rendering his concessions as little beneficial as possible to the power and interests of the British Government. A further motive for his refusal to cede any portion of that territory may be expected to arise from its vicinity to Delhi, as the proximity of the British dominions to that capital would facilitate any arrangements for the emancipation of the Royal family from the control of Sindhia. It will be your duty, therefore, to urge, with proportionate earnestness, the absolute necessity of assigning in commutation of subsidy, a tract of country contiguous to the Company's dominions, and to state the inconvenience and embarrassment arising from the local situation of any territory, intermixed with or surrounded by the possessions of other chieftains.

His Excellency considers Sindhia's positive consent to the third condition to be an object of inferior importance to the rest; as without any specific stipulation, the arbitration of the British Government will

necessarily be admitted to an extent proportioned to the ascendancy which that government will obtain over Sindhia under the proposed engagements, and to the power which it will possess of controlling his designs.

His Excellency considers the object of the fourth condition to be the most important of any. You are sufficiently aware of the hazard to which the British interests will be eventually exposed by the continuance of a considerable body of troops in the service of Sindhia under the command of French officers. The arrangement most beneficial to the interests of the Company would obviously be the substitution of a body of British troops for those now under the command of M. Perron.

To this arrangement it is not probable that Sindhia would be induced to accede, except under circumstances of peculiar difficulty and embarrassments, from which he can entertain no prospect of relief, but through the aid and support of the British power. His Excellency, however, considers the dismissal of the French officers in Sindhia's service as an indispensable condition in any engagement which the British Government may be required to contract for the defence and security of Sindhia's possessions. His Excellency would have no objection to the appointment of British subjects to commands in Sindhia's brigades, in the room of the French officers.

But whatever may be the result of your negotiations for the conclusion of defensive engagements between Sindhia and the British Government, His Excellency considers the British Government to possess the right of representing to Sindhia, in the strongest terms, the expediency of his entering into an obligation to entertain no more subjects of France, or her allies, in his service, independently of any concession on the part of the Company. Sindhia's admission into his service of the subjects of a state with which the British nation is at war, is evidently inconsistent, under all the circumstances of the case, with the relations actually subsisting between him and the Company. Even admitting the adoption of this measure to be unconnected with any views on the part of Sindhia, hostile to the British interest, the British Government is justified, upon the acknowledged principles of self-defence, in opposing a measure the tendency of which must be to facilitate the accomplishment of any attempt on the part of the French Government to establish its authority in India, and the operation of which, to the injury of the British interests, it would not be in the powers of Sindhia to control. Could it even be supposed that Sindhia possessed that power of control over the French officers commanding troops in his service, no considerations could require the British Government to expose the security of its interests to a precarious dependence upon the fluctuating views and doubtful disposition of Sindhia. Although these arguments apply with equal force to the expediency

of removing the French officers actually in the service of Sindhia, yet as they were entertained previously to the commencement of the war, and as the troops under their command constitute so essential a part of Sindhia's force, His Excellency is of opinion that we cannot found upon those arguments, a positive right to demand the dismissal of them.

The danger to be apprehended from the establishment of the authority of the French Government in any part of India, will, in His Excellency's judgment, be considerably augmented after the conclusion of a general peace in Europe. The importance, therefore, of excluding the power and influence of France, both now and hereafter, from the government and councils of Sindhia, is proportionably increased, and as the existence of the war with France furnishes a just ground of argument for demanding the exclusion of French subjects from the service of Sindhia, which would not exist under a different situation of affairs, the early prosecution of that measure cannot be neglected without hazarding the loss of the most favourable opportunity which can be expected to occur for its successful accomplishment. The delay which has hitherto taken place in commencing these negotiations has been obviously connected with the state of affairs in Oudh.

You are, no doubt, apprized by Colonel Palmer's late letters, of the proposals which have been made by the Peshwa to the British Government for subsidizing a force of British troops. The subject of those proposals is now under His Excellency's consideration. In your negotiation with Sindhia, you will be careful to maintain a due coincidence with those which the Resident at Poona will conduct under His Excellency's orders, and to to avoid any engagement which can operate to the exclusion of the Peshwa from the full benefit of the general system of defensive alliance which His Excellency is solicitous to establish, whenever the Peshwa may be disposed to accede to it. For this purpose you will receive the earliest information of His Excellency's sentiments upon the Peshwa's late proposals, and of the instructions which His Excellency may think proper to issue to the Resident at Poona for his conduct upon that occasion. The Resident at Poona will likewise receive directions to communicate to you regularly the progress of his negotiation with the Peshwa; and His Excellency desires that you will in like manner communicate to the Resident at Poona the progress of your own with Sindhia.

His Excellency relies upon your judgment and discretion for selecting the time and the mode of opening the negotiation hereby committed to your charge. His Excellency, however, directs me to state to you the expediency of ascertaining, in the first instance, the specific views and intentions with which Sindhia solicited the measure of your proceeding to join him, and to obtain from him a declaration of

any proposals, which he may now have to make to the British Government for the improvement of the subsisting alliance. It will likewise be advisable that you should previously obtain accurate information with respect to the actual state of Sindhia's affairs, the power, resources, and views of his opponents, the probable issue of the depending contest, and the prospect which Sindhia possesses, of being enabled to establish his authority in Hindustan upon a secure and permanent foundation, independently of the support of the British power.

It is not to be expected that Sindhia will be induced to enter into any defensive engagements with those comprehensive and beneficial views which are in His Excellency's contemplation, in proposing the establishment of a general system of defensive alliance with the states of Hindustan. The extent of Sindhia's concurrence in His Excellency's views will be regulated solely by the exigency of his own affairs, and by considerations exclusively connected with his individual interest and the security of his possessions. His Excellency directs me to recommend this observation to your notice with a view to render the operation of that principle subservient in the utmost practicable degree to the accomplishment of His Excellency's views, but without concealing from Sindhia the object of those views as directed to the general peace and tranquillity of Hindustan, and to the support and security of the several powers which may be comprehended in the alliance.

I am further directed to add, that whatever proposals you may offer to Sindhia under the foregoing instructions, should be stated to him in the light of a concession on the part of the British Government, tending to the security of his interests, and the stability of his dominion, not as directed to objects in any degree necessary to the security of the British Empire in India.

In discussing the question relative to the general dismissal of French officers from Sindhia's service, it may possibly be found practicable to effect that measure partially and with reference to some individual officers, although its general accomplishment may not be immediately attainable. His Excellency the Governor General wishes you in this case, to endeavour to effect the removal of every French officer whom you may be able to remove; and your first attention should be directed against M. Perron, whose dangerous views and power are well known to you. If the movement of any body of troops would hereafter be necessary to aid Sindhia in securing either the total or partial dismissal of the French, and especially the removal of M. Perron, the Lieutenant-Governor of the ceded provinces, and the officers in command of the forces, will be ready to afford the requisite force at the proper season.

The plan of any such movement would, however, require to be conducted with the utmost degree of secrecy and caution.

**No. 39**—Collins promises to act with the utmost caution and the greatest care in conducting his negotiations with Sindhia.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

*Camp near Kotah, 31st January 1802.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your official letter, in the Secret Department of the 15th instant, communicating instructions from His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, for the guidance of my conduct in the negotiation intrusted to my charge, for the purpose of establishing the connection, which it is in the contemplation of His Excellency to form with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

I have also received a copy of the treaty concluded with His Highness the Nizam on the 12th of October 1800, together with a transcript of His Excellency's instructions to the Resident of Hyderabad, under date the 15th of June, 1800, and am fully sensible how useful both these documents, particularly the latter, will be in assisting my judgment during the progress of the important negotiation which is committed to my charge.

After a few private conferences with Sindhia and his principal minister Sharzaji Ghatge, I expect, it will be in my power to form a tolerably correct opinion, how far the sentiments and present situation of the Maharaja, are favourable or adverse to the attainment of the views of the most noble the Governor General; and since His Excellency has been pleased to confide to my discretion the selection, as well of the time as of the mode of opening the negotiation, it behoves me to be particularly cautious not to commit the dignity of His Excellency's Government, by any premature disclosure of the objects of my mission. To avoid, therefore, as much as may be possible, an error of this nature, I shall not introduce the propositions which I am authorized to prefer, until I have good grounds to believe that they will not be perverted to purposes inimical to the British interests in India, but, on the contrary, be received and regarded as real proofs of His Excellency's friendly intentions to promote the security of Sindhia's Government.

I have the honour to enclose two *kharitas* to the address of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General from Daulat Rao Sindhia and Sharzaji Ghatge,

**No. 40**—The Governor General is informed of the help Collins received from Zalim Singh at Kotah and of other details relating to the affairs of Sindhia.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Kotah, 1st February 1802.*

I have at length received a letter from Daulat Rao Sindhia, in reply to mine of the 12th ultimo, in which he apprizes me that he has sent Naroba Pandit with a party of horse to escort me to Ujjain.

The Maharaja has likewise written to the Kotah Raja to supply me with provisions for my march, as there are none procurable in most places between this and Ujjain. Zalim Singh, who entertains the most friendly disposition towards the English nation, readily undertook to furnish me with a sufficiency of grain, etc., but left it to me to provide carriage for it, not, as he assured me, from a principle of avarice, but from apprehension that were he, in the present instance, to act conformably to his inclination, it might hereafter involve him in heavy expenses, since the officers in Sindhia's service, would on all occasions demand similar indulgences. It, therefore, only remains for me to hire carriage cattle on the most reasonable terms.

I expect to recommence my march the day after to-morrow; by which time, as Zalim Singh assures me, both grain and the necessary carriage will be provided; and it is not my intention to wait the arrival of Sindhia's escort, which is more likely to retard than to facilitate my journey.

I perceive by my intelligence, that Ambaji Rao is endeavouring to reconcile the Maharaja to the ladies of his family. The Bais require the fortress of Bhilsa for their residence, and three lakhs in *jagir* for their support. Their principal adherent Jaggu Babu, also demands a *jaidad*, adequate to the payment of 5,000 cavalry. The Bais likewise affirm, that Shiv Ram Bhau, the Subahdar of Jhansi, will be security for their future good behaviour in the event of Sindhia's acceding to the foregoing conditions.

My agent, Ganpat Rai, pretends to have learnt the particulars of a private conference that the Vakil of the Raja of Berar lately held with Daulat Rao Sindhia, and in which the former positively affirmed that his master would shortly repair to Orissa, and that in the meantime an experienced officer, with a strong detachment, was to proceed without delay to Cuttack.

I had yesterday the honour to acknowledge my receipt of Your Lordship's instructions, communicated to me by Mr. Edmonstone, in his

letter-bearing date the 15th ultimo. Conformably to the directions contained therein it shall be my particular study to ascertain, in the first instance, the specific views and intentions with which Sindhia solicited the measure of my proceeding to join him, and to obtain from him a declaration of any proposals which he may now have to make to the British Government, for the improvement of the subsisting alliance.

I have the honour to enclose the copy and translate of an extract of letter to my address from the Raja of Lahore.

**No. 40A—Enclosure.**

*Extract of a letter from Rajah Ranjit Singh to  
Colonel John Collins.*

As the relations of friendship are firmly established between us, I use no ceremony in apprizing you of the following circumstances in consequence of the regard I bear you. "The General has written to me, through my relatives who are assembled at Hansi for the purpose of opposing Mr. Thomas, that if I sincerely entertained sentiments of friendliness and good will towards him, I ought to give proof of the same by acts of kindness."—It is a practice of long standing among the Khalsa Sardars to remain firm to those with whom they first entered into engagements of friendship. The General wrote also diverse other matters to me, which it would be improper to commit to paper. In no particular, however, has the amicable connection so well established between us by Mir Yusuf Ali Khan and Mir Mahomed Ali Khan, experienced either weakness or diminution.

**No. 41—Collins points out that due to the conclusion of peace between the English and the French in Europe he has been deprived of the main argument in pressing Sindhia for the removal of the French officers in his service.**

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Umjaur Nadi, 7th February 1802.*

Naroba Pandit joined me today at this place, which is distant forty miles from the city of Kotah, with an escort of three hundred horse from Daulat Rao Sindhia.



The Maharaja is returned to Ujjain, and will, I understand, remain there some time. Jaswant Rao Holkar has evacuated the province of Malwa, and is now in the vicinity of Udaipur. Balla Rao, Ambaji's brother, has been detached by Sindhia in pursuit of Holkar with a considerable force, both of horse and foot.

On the third instant, a salute was fired at Ujjain in consequence of intelligence from Bombay of the ratification of the preliminaries of peace, between the Courts of Great Britain and France. Mr. Sutherland was the person who first apprized the Maharaja of the event.

It appears by the 17th paragraph of Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's letter to me, bearing date the 15th ultimo, that Your Lordship was fully aware that the continuance of the war with France afforded a just ground of argument for demanding the exclusion of French subjects from the service of Sindhia, which would not exist under a different situation of affairs. On this subject, therefore, I can only express my regret, that the sudden intelligence of peace should tend so materially to weaken the grounds which Your Lordship furnished me with, for obtaining the most important object of my present mission; as I humbly conceive, it solely remains for me, under existing circumstances, to endeavour to attain by conciliation that which I might otherwise have claimed on the plea of right.

**No. 42**—Collins is asked to stay within Sindhia's dominions if the latter was personally engaged in a campaign.

**FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Lucknow, 7th February 1802.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 182, under date the 24th ultimo; and to inform you, that His Excellency approves your intention of halting at Kota, until you shall have received an answer from Sindhia to the letter which you addressed to him on the 12th ultimo.

I am further directed to acquaint you, in reply to the point submitted to His Excellency's consideration in the 6th paragraph of your letter above acknowledged, that in the event of Sindhia's being personally engaged in military operations in the field, His Excellency approves of your retiring, after an interview with Sindhia, to some place subject to his authority, and of your remaining there until the conclusion of the campaign.

**No. 43**—Having reached Ujjain, Collins informs the Governor General about the details of his formal meetings with Sindhia.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Ujjain, 22nd February 1802.*

On the 20th instant I arrived at my present ground of encampment, which is, I now find, a mile and half from the city of Ujjain ; but Daulat Rao Sindhia did not meet me on the road conformably to his engagement, although I was careful to be perfectly correct in point of time.

I have no reason, however, to think, that on the part of the Maharaja this omission was intentional ; it being certain that his *sawari* had been prepared at an early hour in the morning, and also that the delay in setting off was solely ascribable to his continuing at prayer without adverting to the time of the day.

Munshi Kaval Nayan immediately waited on me by order of Daulat Rao Sindhia, to apologize for this apparent neglect, and to assure me, that the Maharaja was anxious to evince the respect and regard he bore Your Lordship by paying me every possible attention. I readily admitted the excuses of the Munshi, as indeed I should have done had I even doubted their sincerity ; and simply observed that, having by Your Excellency's commands travelled nearly three hundred *kos* to attend the Maharaja, at his own particular request, it was impossible for me to suppose any neglect could have been intended in the present instance ; and that his (the Munshi's) explanation of the circumstances which caused the omission, was perfectly satisfactory.

Yesterday afternoon I went by appointment to pay my first visit to the Maharaja, who came a full mile from the city to meet me. My reception, as well on the road as in the palace to which Sindhia conducted me, was, in all respects, highly honourable ; and, on my taking leave, he did me the distinguished favour of placing a *Sarpech*, *Jegha*, and *Mala*, with his own hands round my head and neck. The conversation that passed between us was, as is usual on such occasions, wholly complimentary ; and on the part of the Maharaja, chiefly confined to enquiries regarding Your Lordship's health, accompanied by expressions of the respect and esteem he entertained for Your Excellency.

I have been informed by Ganpat Rai, that in consequence of the advice and representations of M. Perron, Sharzaji Ghatge will not be permitted to hold private conversation with me, but that Krishna Chitnavis and Munshi Kaval Nayan were the persons appointed to attend me on all occasions of business with this Durbar. I shall soon know how far this

intelligence may be relied on ; in the meantime it is observable that Sharzaji did not attend Daulat Rao Sindhia yesterday, either on the road or at the palace.

Immediately after the Maharaja has done me the honour of a visit, which, I understood, will not be protracted beyond the day after tomorrow, I shall endeavour to ascertain the specific views with which Sindhia solicited the measures of my proceeding to his Durbar.

Sindhia, yesterday morning, sent to acquaint me, that a salute had been fired in the city on account of the Bais having repaired to the camp of Ambaji Rao, in proof of the sincerity of the reconciliation that had lately taken place. In reply to this message I assured the Maharaja, that Your Lordship could not but derive infinite satisfaction from so happy an event ; and as I was fully convinced it would be highly pleasing to Your Excellency, I should not fail to direct a salute to be fired in our encampment on an occasion so interesting to the friends of his government. This was accordingly done, and I have reason to believe that the compliment was particularly well received.

**No. 44**—Sindhia having returned the formal visit of Collins, the latter now seeks a private audience with him.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Ujjain, 25th February 1802.*

Yesterday afternoon Daulat Rao Sindhia, accompanied by nearly eighty Sardars of rank, returned my visit. I met the Maharaja at the distance of about two hundred yards from the front of our encampment, and conducted him to a tent that had been properly prepared for the occasion. The European officers in the service of this prince did not attend him in his visit to me ; nor was there one present at the Durbar when I paid my respects to him.

Daulat Rao Sindhia was treated with every mark of distinction to which his rank entitled him ; and I have the satisfaction to learn from various quarters, that the Maharaja and the Sardars who accompanied him on this visit, were highly pleased with the reception they had met with. Although *khilats* had been prepared both for Sharzaji Ghatge and Jadu Rao, at the particular desire of Sindhia, yet neither of these chiefs were present on this occasion. The Maharaja, however, took care to have their *khilats* sent to them ; and, on being informed that the one intended for Jadu Rao was inferior to Sharzaji Ghatge's, as having no *mala* in it, he requested I would add one, which was accordingly done.

For some time past these ministers have been contending for the chief direction of Sindhia's affairs; but from the foregoing circumstances I am inclined to think, that the Maharaja has already decided in favour of Jadu Rao, and indeed this seems to be the general opinion. In fact, notwithstanding the high rank of Sharzaji Ghatge, he is by no means held in estimation by the principal Sardars of the court; and it is possibly as much on this account, as on that of the advice of M. Perron, that Sharzaji has been prohibited holding private conferences with me.

The ceremony of visits being happily over, I have this day intimated by note to Krishna Chitnavis, that I should be highly gratified in being admitted to the honour of a private audience with the Maharaja, whenever he was at leisure to receive my visit. I have not as yet had any answer to this note; but, as I am told that Sindhia is very desirous of ascertaining the objects of my mission, and that he even entertains apprehensions respecting them, I think it likely, he will fix on an early day for my admission to a private conference.

My advices from Kota mention, that Jaswant Rao Holkar is arrived within ten kos of that city, and has made a demand on Raja Zalim Singh of three lakhs of rupees. Zalim Singh offers payment of one lakh provided Holkar's troops refrain from plundering the country, but declares his inability to advance a larger sum of money.

**No. 45**—Collins informs the Governor General that on the occasion of his first private audience with Sindhia, he conveyed the message of the Governor General to the Maharaja, but he and his ministers were unable to give a suitable reply and they asked for time. Collins also adds that Jadu Rao having gained Sindhia's favour and ascendancy at the court, Sharzaji Ghatge had left Ujjain.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Ujjain, 28th February 1802.*

In my last address of the 25th instant, I had the honour to apprise Your Lordship of my having applied by note, through Krishna Chitnavis, to be admitted to a private audience with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

In answer to this application, Munshi Kaval Nayan informed me the Maharaja would be happy to receive my visit on the 27th in the afternoon; at the same time, however, an intimation was given, that it was expected I should communicate the particulars of what I had to say on the part of Your Lordship to Krishna Chitnavis and Munshi Kaval Nayan, and that I must refrain from entering upon the subject in the presence of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

In reply to this extraordinary intimation, I wrote, that "having been entrusted by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General with a message to the Maharaja, I most certainly should never be so deficient in the respect and duty I owed to His Excellency, as to deliver the same to any other person than the Prince himself". When this answer was reported to Sindhia, he observed that the mode suggested by his ministers appeared to him the most eligible, but nevertheless that he should very willingly acquiesce in the one I had proposed.

Accordingly I waited on the Maharaja yesterday afternoon, and was conducted by him to a private apartment from which all his Sardars were excluded, except Krishna Chitnavis, Munshi Kaval Nayan, and Bappu Chitnavis.

After giving the Maharaja assurances of Your Lordship's friendly disposition towards him, and paying those compliments to which the Princes of Hindustan are accustomed, I commenced the discourse by stating that the Maharaja, having some time back done me the honour to invite me to his court, Your Excellency had it in contemplation to order me to proceed thither as soon as the existing disturbances in this quarter were in some degree composed.

That Your Lordship had, with a view to this design, called me to Benares; but on receiving a letter from the Maharaja, stating that he had something to disclose which might be communicated verbally, but could not be committed to writing, Your Excellency conceived therefrom, that the Maharaja had some secret to impart, important to the interests of both states, or some plan to propose for improving the connection between them, and therefore did not hesitate a moment in ordering me to proceed with all practicable expedition to this court. And further to evince the friendly disposition of the British Government to meet the wishes of the Maharaja, Your Lordship, on the supposition that he might have some plan to propose of the nature already mentioned, had in a letter, which I did myself the honour to forward from Mirzapur, assured the Maharaja that I was vested with the full powers to conclude an arrangement calculated to improve the relation subsisting between him and the English Government.

That in consequence of my instructions, I was now come prepared to receive whatever secret communications or propositions the Maharaja might have to make; and that I could with great truth assure him, Your Lordship was most sincerely disposed to meet him half way in forwarding any plan that had for an object the improvement of the existing alliance between the two Sarkars.

The ministers, who had listened with profound attention to my discourse, seemed by their silence and confused looks totally at a loss what answer to give; but after a considerable pause, Krishna Chitnavis repeated

almost verbatim to the Maharaja, all that I had stated, and requested to be instructed how to reply. To this Sindhia instantly said, "How should I know? You are the best judges".

Krishna Chitnavis being silent on the occasion Munshi Kaval Nayan affirmed, that when the Prince had desired my personal attendance at his Durbar, he then expected shortly to move towards Hindustan, and that, therefore, his invitation was intended as a mark of politeness, and in fact was only conformable to usage. But I assumed the liberty of correcting this statement by observing, that at the period alluded to the Maharaja was in Deccan, and engaged in affairs of consequence that were likely to occupy his attention for many months.

Krishna Chitnavis candidly admitted the justice of this remark; and then said, that the Prince had long been desirous of having me with him, in order that he might fully express his sincere desire of preserving the relations of amity that subsisted between his Sarkar and our government, as well as to assure me of the friendship he entertained for His Excellency the Most noble the Governor General.

To which I replied, that these topics had been frequently and satisfactorily discussed in the correspondence I had had the honour to hold for these last three years, as well with the Maharaja as with his ministers; that the friendship of Your Excellency towards the Maharaja was no more a secret than was his for Your Lordship, consequently that it surely was by no means necessary for me to travel nearly 300 kos, merely to be informed of that which was already well known throughout Hindustan. Daulat Rao Sindhia smiled at this observation, and seemed to enjoy the embarrassment of his ministers; who, after several other efforts to evade a direct answer (but which I omit from an apprehension of becoming tiresome) and after much whispering with each other, at length requested I would allow them a few days for consideration.

I said my time was entirely at the command of the Maharaja, to whose interests I was altogether devoted; but that as Your Lordship would naturally expect to be early apprized of the motives which induced the measure of requiring my attendance at this Durbar, I could wish to be enabled to give Your Excellency that information in two days at furthest, to which Krishna Chitnavis gave a faint assent. The conversation then became unimportant and uninteresting.

Although my discourse was at first directed particularly to Daulat Rao Sindhia, yet he evinced no disposition whatever to make any reply thereto; and it seems probable, as well from the manner of the Maharaja, as from the intimation I received on the morning of the 26th, through Munshi Kaval Nayan, that the ministers were determined the Prince should take no part in the conversation; indeed, Sindhia appears to

be an unexperienced youth, and is, I understand, not at all conversant in business.

Sharzaji Ghatge has left the city of Ujjain in high displeasure on account of the ascendancy that Jadu Rao has acquired at this Durbar. The former chief is encamped within two miles of our ground, and has demanded permission of the Maharaja to repair to Nagpur.

The efficient minister Jadu Rao has of late been much indisposed; this morning he sent me word, that his health being somewhat re-established, he hoped soon to have the pleasure of seeing me; to which message I returned a suitable reply. As this Sardar is a reigning favourite at court, I shall, as far as may be practicable, cultivate a good understanding with him.

Jaswant Rao Holkar having approached within seven *kos* of Kotah, Raja Zalim Sing had no means of securing his ryots from plunder but by the immediate payment of one lakh of rupees; and Holkar is now exacting money from Lalaji Pandit, who acts as *Sazawal*\* on the part of Daulat Rao Sindhia at Kota.

**No. 46**—Collins informs the Governor General that at his second private audience with Sindhia nothing important was talked. Collins thinks that due to the general improvement in his affairs all over the country and due to the influence of General Perron, Sindhia does not appear to be very keen on improving his subsisting relations with the British. He also adds that Sindhia would exert his influence to see that the Peshwa too does not enter into any defensive alliance with the English.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Ujjain, 8th March 1802.*

Daulat Rao Sindhia having been much indisposed for some days past, I was not able to obtain a private audience with him until yesterday afternoon, when on paying my respects, I could easily perceive from his reduced appearance, that the indisposition of the Maharaja had not been feigned.

After having expressed my regret at the cause which had deprived me of the pleasure of an earlier interview, I recapitulated all I had said in my first visit, respecting the motives which induced Your Lordship to depute me to this court, and then repeated my former question.

Krishna Chitnavis instantly replied, that the Maharaja had requested my attendance in the hope of strengthening the friendship already

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\* *Sazawal*—A collector of revenue.

subsisting between the two Sarkars, and also in the idea, that should any occurrence happen of moment to either state, a personal conference on the subject would be preferable to any intercourse by letter, to which Sindhia added with great promptness, "and because I am guarantee to the treaty between the English Government and the Peshwa".

Having in the course of a long residence in India frequently observed the inutility of attempting to draw from the natives a confidential communication of such opinions or sentiments as they were unwilling to disclose, and being also desirous to avoid giving offence, particularly in the first stage of the negotiation, I refrained from all further efforts to obtain a more satisfactory answer, and contended myself with simply saying, that I should immediately report the same to Your Lordship; and in the meantime, if the Maharaja had anything important to communicate or propose, I should, conformably to Your Excellency's orders, always be ready to meet his wishes.

The evasive conduct of this Durbar, on the present occasion, has given rise, in my mind, to certain reflections, which I now submit to Your Lordship's superior judgment with the utmost deference and respect.

On advertng to the difficulties in which Sindhia was involved at the different periods when he solicited my attendance at his court, the particulars of which are already detailed in my public correspondence with Your Lordship, the motives that induced this requisition cannot I conceive be well mistaken, for had it then been complied with, the Maharaja knew that the native princes would infer therefrom that Your Lordship entertained the most friendly dispositions toward his government.

And it was certainly important to his interests to attempt to establish this opinion at that critical juncture, since, from the well-known repugnance of the Rajput Chiefs to the usurpations of the Maharaja, he had reason to suspect that they would embrace so favourable an occasion for endeavouring to emancipate themselves therefrom by means of the protection of the English nation, an event which, of all others, Daulat Rao Sindhia mostly apprehended.

It cannot, therefore, be doubted, but that the Maharaja was at those periods sincerely desirous of my repairing to him; and possibly he might then also have formed some intention of recurring to Your Lordship's aid for relief from his embarrassment; I am likewise satisfied that he would at all times be gratified in having an English Resident stationed at his Durbar, not only on account of the consequence he would derive from it in the eyes of the natives, but because he anxiously wishes to preserve the relations of friendship at present subsisting between him and the English Government; at the same time I consider it my indispensable duty to apprise Your Excellency, that I am firmly persuaded he feels no inclination whatever to improve those relations.



The foregoing opinion is founded on the following grounds ; in the first place, on intelligence communicated by Ganpat Rai, who assures me, that previous to my arrival here, Sindhia had been heard to declare, that although it was his sincere desire to maintain inviolate the friendly connection now subsisting between the two Sarkars, yet that no inducement should prevail on him to consent to enter into any new engagements with the British Government : and, secondly, on the result of my enquiries into the actual situation of Sindhia's affairs, of which I shall now give a concise summary for Your Lordship's consideration.

The only open enemies Sindhia has at present to contend with are the Holkars. But since the defeat of Jaswant Rao at Indore, when he lost the whole of his artillery, this Chief has merely been able to carry on a depredatory war ; and as he possesses no other means of subsisting his troops than by plundering, it is not unlikely that they may disperse during the rainy monsoon. Yet should he even find it practicable to retain them in his service, still they are not so formidable either from discipline, or numbers, as to create any serious grounds of alarm to this court. And the hostile attempts of Kashi Rao against the Maharaja in the Subah of Khandesh are yet more feeble than those of his brother in this quarter. Sindhia is likewise well aware that, owing to the exhausted state of the resources of the Holkar family, he can at any time effect a reconciliation with them.

The north-west frontier of Sindhia's dominions is now effectually secured by the total reduction of the forces of Mr. George Thomas, and the consequent acquisition of the fortress and district of Hansi. The submission likewise of the Bais as well as of their adherents, Jaggu Babu and the Datia Raja, the death of that able partisan Lakwa Dada (all of which events have occurred since Your Lordship deputed me hither) and the conciliation of the Sikh Chiefs by M. Perron, have relieved this Durbar from all immediate apprehensions, on the score of foreign invasion or internal dissension.

On reviewing, therefore, the foregoing events, I cannot but think that the present aspect of Sindhia's affairs is far too favourable to warrant a conclusion that he would be inclined to make the smallest concession to our government, in order to become a party in the treaty of the general defensive alliance and reciprocal guarantee, concluded with His Highness the Nizam, on the 12th of October 1800.

And in combining the information of Ganpat Rai, noticed in the ninth paragraph of this letter, with the actual situation of the Maharaja, I am further of opinion, that while his affairs continue thus prosperous, he would not on any account yield his consent to be included in a treaty which, by having in view the general peace and tranquillity of Hindustan, might eventually oppose a barrier to the designs of aggrandizement.

generally, and, I fear, justly ascribed to this prince, who is indeed but too sensible that his own forces are equal to the accomplishment of the objects of his ambition, without any assistance from the British, whose neutrality, therefore, he is alone solicitous to secure.

It must likewise be considered, that, however much it may be the interest of the Peshwa to engage in the defensive alliance, with a view to the restoration of the due exercise of his authority as head of the Maratha Empire, yet that Sindhia is by no means in a similar predicament. On the contrary, as the Maharaja, by the real superiority of his power, is now enabled to intimidate Baji Rao into concessions suitable to his purposes, he is apparently urged by principles of self-interest, not only to decline becoming a party himself in the treaty, but, moreover, to exert his utmost influence, in order to prevent the Peshwa from entering into engagements which, if carried to the extent originally proposed, would completely render him alike independent of Sindhia, and of every other chieftain of the Maratha State.

In addition to these considerations, I am of opinion that the powerful influence of M. Perron is a material obstacle to the present attainment of Your Lordship's views at this court ; for, that he would be adverse to any plan calculated to improve the existing connection between Sindhia's Government and ours must, I should imagine, be readily admitted, after his gross misrepresentations of the motives that induced the mission of Yusuf Ali Khan to Lahore ; and although I have little doubt of convincing the Maharaja, at some future period, of the unfair practices of M. Perron, as well on that occasion as on others, and of thereby lessening his credit, yet more than this cannot reasonably be hoped for, whilst Sindhia is detained in the Malwa province, and while in consequence thereof M. Perron be continued in the commands of the strong fortresses which he now holds in Hindustan.

After weighing with mature deliberation the preceding facts and arguments, together with the intelligence communicated by Lieutenant-Colonel Close, relative to the attempts of this Durbar to traverse the negotiation now pending at Poona ; and, at the same time, bearing in mind that part of Your Excellency's instructions by which I am enjoined to introduce any proposals I may offer to Daulat Rao Sindhia in the light of concessions, and not directed to objects in the least degree necessary to the security of the British Empire in India ; I am upon the whole led to infer that it would not be justifiable in me to hazard committing the dignity of Your Lordship's Government, by an immediate discovery of the primary object of my mission.

And since Your Excellency has done me the honour to entrust to my discretion the selection of the mode and time of opening the negotiation, it is my intention to defer making any overtures to this court

until a more favourable opportunity occurs, unless, contrary to my expectation, I should perceive on the part of Sindhia some tendency to a disposition to improve the subsisting connection.

Indeed, were the Peshwa to accept the aid of a subsidiary force from our government, I should, in this event, entertain strong hopes that Sindhia, apprehensive lest the authority of the head of the Maratha Empire might be exerted against himself, would solicit as a favour to be admitted to the benefit of the treaty of general defensive alliance, and then also he might possibly be prevailed on to make adequate concessions in order to obtain the same.

In the mean time my mission hither has not, I humbly conceive, been altogether without its use, in as much as it has tended greatly to remove those doubts and jealousies respecting Your Lordship's political views that M. Perron has, I have reason to believe, for some time past endeavoured to impress on the mind of the Maharaja, in order possibly to induce him to enter into serious engagements with the French nation.

It is observable that, previous to my arrival here, my Munshi Hussain Ali Khan received information through various channels, that it was generally supposed I had been deputed by Your Excellency to demand from this court the cession of Agra, and the dismissal of all French officers from the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

I have the honour to enclose a copy and translate of an article of intelligence relating to the negotiations of M. Perron with the Sikh Chiefs.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a *kharita* to Your Lordship's address from Daulat Rao Sindhia, which I do myself the honour to forward; I have also been informed that M. Perron is preparing to march towards Ujjain; and that in consequence of his expected approach Jaswant Rao Holkar has retired from the vicinity of Kota, and designs crossing the Narbada, to form a junction with his brother Kashi Rao in Khandesh. A Vakil, however, on the part of the latter, arrived here last night, with overtures of peace, and to which the Maharaja has, I understand, given a favourable answer.

**No. 46A—Enclosure.**

*Extract of a letter from Mir Ghulam Hussain in the service of Raja Bhag Singh of Jind to Mir Mohammed Ali Khan.*

Raja Bhag Singh and the Dewan of Raja Sahib Singh of Patiala having waited on General Perron, he presented them and all the other Sardars with *khilats*. Friendship was firmly established on this occasion between

General Perron and Raja Sahib Singh, and it was agreed on, that a mutual exchange of turbans should take place between them; accordingly the Dewan of Sahib Singh took away for the purpose a turban on the part of General Perron; Raja Bhag Singh set forth the friendship which Raja Ranjit Singh of Lahore entertained for General Perron, and it was settled that they should exchange turbans likewise. As Ranjit Singh is the nephew of Bhag Singh, the former, therefore, proposes that no one but the latter shall possess any authority in the territories of Lahore and Mangheh; that the other Sikh Sardars shall be obliged to quit these places, and friendship maintained with Ranjit Singh only, whose boundary shall be extended to the banks of the Attock. Bhag Singh, having discussed these points, took his leave, and is now gone to Lahore, in order to bring Ranjit Singh to the river Satlej. M. Louis will proceed to the Satlej to receive him; and General Perron will also repair thither for the purpose of conferring with Ranjit Singh. The expulsion of the former and present news-writers of the English from Patiala and Lahore, was also proposed by Bhag Singh to General Perron.

**No. 47**—Perron, now on his way to Ujjain, tries to bring about a reconciliation between Sindhia and Jaswant Rao Holkar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Ujjain, 18th March 1802.*

In the postscript to my letter of the 8th instant, I had the honour to apprise Your Lordship, that M. Perron was preparing to march towards Ujjain; and I have since been informed that he was arrived in the vicinity of Kota with four battalions of sepoys and five hundred cavalry, a few days back.

Balla Rao and Sadashiv are also at Kota, where they have committed the most barbarous outrages, under the pretext of Zalim Singh's affording protection to some dependents of the Holkar family. These chiefs were detached from hence in pursuit of Jaswant Rao, and their present aggression against the Kota Raja are highly disapproved of at this Durbar.

My last advices from the camp of Jaswant Rao Holkar, mention his having taken the route of Gwalior, and that he intended to defer crossing the Narbada until he learnt the result of an application which he had made to M. Perron, for the purpose of effecting a reconciliation with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

A Vakil, on the part of Jaswant Rao, is now with M. Perron, who has in consequence of this overture from Holkar, addressed an *arzi* to the Maharaja to the following purport :

"As Jaswant Rao Holkar is a member of the Maratha Empire, and might at some future period be useful to your designs, it would, I conceive, be impolitic to crush him altogether. If, therefore, the Maharaja should approve thereof, I shall endeavour to adjust the existing differences between the two Sarkars."

Sindhia observed in reply that, as a negotiation was now carrying on with Kashi Rao Holkar, if his brother could at the same time be brought to accept of reasonable conditions, through the mediation of M. Perron, he (the Maharaja) should have no objection to the measure.

Kashi Rao has directed his officers to suspend all hostilities against Daulat Rao Sindhia in the Subah of Khandesh. At the same time he has given the *Bavan Paga* rebels to understand, that they must expect no further support from him. Gopal Bhau has lately taken the fort of Jamner in Khandesh by assault, from the *Bavan Paga* Sardars.

Letters from Amritsar, under date the 22nd ultimo, affirm that Shuja-ul-Mulk had returned to Khyber, and that Abdul Rahman Khan, chief of the Ghilzi tribe, was arrived at Ghazni in considerable force, with an intention of levying contribution in the Suba of Kandahar and Herat.

This rebellion seems to have excited great alarm in Mahmud Shah, the event being altogether unexpected and consequently unprovided for. The Shah has, however, detached the son of Sher Mahomad Khan, with a few thousand horse, towards Ghazni, and purposes opposing the rebels with a strong army, whenever the weather which is at present very inclement, will allow of his assembling troops. Abdul Rahman Khan is reported to have been the father-in-law to the late Zaman Shah.

Accounts from the Punjab state that Ranjit Singh of Lahore has defeated the Afghans of Kassur, and possessed himself of that district.

**No. 48**—Collins describes in detail the tug-of-war going on at the court of Sindhia between various persons for the final control of affairs there, and adds that generally Bapu Rao Angria is considered the fittest person to be the prime minister of Sindhia.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Ujjain, 28th March 1802.*

M. Perron arrived here this morning, with nearly three thousand cavalry and ten guns. The sepoy battallions that accompanied him to Kota, are now on their march towards Mathura.

M. Perron is, I understand, to have a private audience with Daulat Rao Sindhia, either this evening or to-morrow morning. His arrival has been anxiously desired on account of the violent dissensions that prevail at this Durbar, and which can only be composed (so at least the Maharaja thinks) by his powerful interference.

Your Lordship has been already apprized of the secession of Sharzaji Ghatge. Sindhia who is averse to proceed to extremities against a person so nearly connected with him, offered to settle a *jagir* on his father-in-law to the annual amount of three lakhs of rupees on condition of his retiring from court, and relinquishing all claim to the chief direction of public affairs.

But Sharzaji insisted on the immediate payment of a large sum of money that he pretends is due to him from this government, and made other demands which are deemed highly unreasonable; and hence, it is generally supposed, that he is determined to force himself into administration, if he possibly can.

Sindhia, however, is well aware that the cruelties formerly exercised by Sharzaji Ghatge, have reflected much odium on his own government. He has, moreover, been recently informed, that his father-in-law had formed a design of cutting off Jadu Rao and several other sardars of rank. The Maharaja has also been assured that Sharzaji Ghatge had actually prevailed on Colonel Sutherland to promise his assistance in the execution of this unjustifiable act of violence.

But although the Maharaja be highly exasperated at the conduct of Sharzaji Ghatge, yet he has hitherto been restrained from securing the person of this chief, in the apprehension that any severity of treatment towards so near a relation, might be generally condemned by the Princes of India.

It is, however, believed that M. Perron will soon subdue those principles of delicacy in the Maharaja. In the meantime, Sharzaji Ghatge is constantly guarded by a body of his own horse, seven hundred strong; and the house of Jadu Rao is defended by five hundred sepoy who are attached to his service.

The above relation will enable Your Lordship to form a judgment of the factious designs of some of the officers of this Durbar, which might have been attended with dangerous consequences, but for the arrival of M. Perron, whose influence with the regular corps stationed here, is far superior to Colonel Sutherland's.

Those servants of the Durbar who are real well-wishers to the government of Daulat Rao, are extremely desirous that his maternal uncle, Bappu Rao Angria, should be at the head of the administration, this chief being of reputed integrity and ability. Jadu Rao, though experienced in

business, is not thought to possess sufficient weight to control the conduct of the Maharaja, while, on the other hand, Sharzaji Ghatge is detested, from the supposed cruelty of his disposition.

Bappu Rao Angria is, therefore, the person most approved of for prime minister to Sindhia, and I understand that the Maharaja has pressed him to accept of the situation. But Angria has declared he will never undertake the direction of affairs, nor repair hither while Sharzaji be permitted to continue at court.

M. Perron appears to have made some progress in the negotiations with Jaswant Rao Holkar, so far at least as to have induced this Chief to consent to an accommodation with Daulat Rao Sindhia on certain conditions ; but what their nature may be has not as yet transpired. Jaswant Rao is at present encamped at Molungpur, a place nearly midway between Ujjain and the Narbada River.

For these last ten days, the Maharaja and his ministers have been engaged in celebrating the festival of the Holi ; during this season, little or no business is transacted at the Hindu Durbar ; but Sindhia and his principal servants have not been so much occupied by their diversions as to omit paying me every attention I could expect or desire throughout that period.

*P.S.*—After I had closed this letter, an *harkara*, belonging to Sharzaji, came to my Munshi Hussain Ali Khan, with a request from his master that I would admit of a private visit from a confidential person in his employ, to which I returned a very civil but firm refusal.

**No. 49**—On reaching Ujjain General Perron was favourably received by Sindhia. Collins goes on to describe the jealousy of the Maratha Sardars towards the General.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Ujjain, 30th March 1802.*

Yesterday General Perron paid his personal respects to the Maharaja by whom he was received with high favour and distinction.

The General embraced this opportunity of introducing M. Dudrenec, who accompanied him hither, together with a wakil from Saheb Singh, the Raja of Patiala, on which occasion this agent presented a *nazar* of one hundred gold *mohars* to Daulat Rao Sindhia on the part of his master.

Although this token of obedience from the Patiala Raja could not but be extremely gratifying to Sindhia, in as much as it promises to favour his ambitious views on the Punjab, yet his ministers, I have reason to think, were by no means pleased, that so important an object should have been effected by the sole influence of M. Perron, of whose credit they appear to be extremely jealous.

Indeed, I have it from good authority, that the Sardars of this court have frequently remonstrated with the Maharaja on the subject of the extensive authority vested in General Perron ; and I have also been told in confidence, that whenever the disturbances in this quarter are composed so far as to admit of Sindhia's repairing to Agra, it is the intention of the Maharaja to deprive the General of the command of those fortresses which he now possesses in Hindustan.

Nor do I doubt the truth of this information when I reflect on the general disposition of the Marathas, they being, as Your Lordship well knows, at all times inclined to suspicion and jealousy, of which I saw strong symptoms at my audience with the Maharaja on the 27th ultimo.

The ministers, who were present at this interview, having put various questions to me respecting the state of Sindhia's possessions in the Doab, I purposely spoke of them as being in the most flourishing condition, ascribing the same to the able management of General Perron to whom, as Your Lordship recollects, they are assigned in *jaidad*. I also noticed the unwearied attention of the General to improve and strengthen the works of the different fortresses garrisoned by his troops, and mentioned likewise the high estimation in which he was held by all the Rajput and Sikh Sardars who were chiefly guided by his councils and directions.

This discourse being naturally introduced without the least apparent design, seemed to me to make a deep impression on the ministers who, at the conclusion thereof, turned their eyes reproachfully towards the Maharaja, and preserved a profound silence for a considerable time afterwards.

Sindhia took this occasion to enquire into the state of the fort and city of Agra. I told him that the former had lately undergone a complete repair, but that the latter was fallen greatly into decay, most of the old inhabitants, particularly merchants and artizans, having left it. This I ascribed, to the difficulty they found in obtaining subsistence, ever since the government of the city had been relinquished by the Maratha Sardars whose numerous relations, connections, and dependents, afforded heretofore constant employ to all descriptions of people.



**No. 50**—Collins mentions the movements of Jaswant Rao Holkar, and goes on to give accurate details of the state of the regular infantry in the service of Sindhia with special reference to those serving under Perron.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Ujjain, 7th April 1802.*

The troops of Jaswant Rao Holkar have crossed the Narbada and this Chief is gone to Mehypoor, in the hope of prevailing on his brother Kashi Rao, who at present resides in that city, to commence hostilities against Daulat Rao Sindhia in the Suba of Khandesh.

It appears, that Jaswant Rao is determined to come to no accommodation with the Maharaja, unless the person of Khande Rao be delivered into his charge. The *harkaras* sent by M. Perron lately took leave of Jaswant Rao; he pointed to his horse and spear, at the same time directing those men to tell their master that the former at all times afford him a shade to sleep in, and the latter means of subsistence.

Sharzaji Ghatge has marched from hence about ten *kos*, and avows a design of proceeding to Nagpur. At the request of Sindhia, General Perron has sent vakils to Sharzaji for the purpose of inducing him to accept of the jagir which the Maharaja is willing to settle on him. In the meantime, a battalion of sepoys has been secretly detached from Ujjain in order to traverse the march of Sharzaji Ghatge, should he persevere in his intention to repair to Nagpur.

Since my arrival at this court, I have obtained more accurate information of the state of the regular infantry in the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia than I heretofore possessed. I believe Your Lordship may rely on the correctness of the following statement.

General Perron commands four brigades of native infantry, each consisting of ten battalions of sepoys; the complement of a battalion is seven hundred and sixteen firelocks, and every corps is commanded by two or three European officers. There are also four field-pieces and a howitzer attached to each battalion, with a liberal proportion of *golandaz*, lascars, carriage, etc.

Exclusive of the battalion field-pieces, every brigade has a park consisting of 16 guns of a large calibre; and also a *risala* of regular cavalry, with gallopers. General Perron has likewise, in his own pay, a body of four thousand cavalry, the horse of which are his exclusive property. This corps is nearly on the same establishment with the Hindustani regiment, received from General D'Boigne into our service.

Independent of the force subject to the authority of General Perron, Sindhia has two other brigades (lately commanded by Colonel Filose and Hessing) of the same strength originally as those I have already noticed, but they are, at present, incomplete; and General Perron who long regarded them with an eye of jealousy, does every thing in his power to prevent their being recruited.

On my arrival, the troops doing duty at this place received the following pay : majors, per month, 1,800 rupees, captains, 600 ; lieutenants, 300 ; private sepoy, 9 rupees ; and the native officers in proportion. But General Perron, a few days since reduced these allowances ; and they are now fixed as follows : majors, 1,200 ; captains, 400 ; lieutenants, 200 ; and private seopys, 7 rupees. This is what is termed the Hindustani pay ; but both Europeans and natives, serving on the southern side of Narbada, are entitled to the superior allowances first mentioned, and which they denominated Deccani pay.

I have been assured by an English gentleman of some observation in this army, but who is by no means partial to M. Perron, that the brigades are well appointed, and regularly paid by the General. The same gentleman further declared that the 3rd brigade which had been employed in reducing Mr. George Thomas, was the worst in Sindhia's service.

General Perron, with whom I live on terms of civility, informed me a few days ago, that Sindhia had assigned lands for the maintenance of invalid sepoy, on a plan somewhat similar to that of the invalid establishment in the honourable Company's service.

I have perhaps been too minute in the foregoing detail, but conceiving that Your Lordship must be desirous of being particularly apprized of the organization of the corps commanded by General Perron, as well as of the strength of his military establishments, I would rather have to apologize for being tedious than defective in my information of so important a subject.

**No. 51**—Collins informs the Governor General about the dissatisfaction in the regular army of Sindhia due to the reforms carried out by Perron, the reconciliation of Sharzaji Ghatge and other affairs ; he also mentions the famine prevailing near about Ujjain and the consequent deaths in that country which made the whole area most unhealthy.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Ujjain, 18th April 1802.*

Jaswant Rao Holkar left Maheshwar some days ago in order to repair to his army in Khandesh. Kashi Rao, who seems resolved on preserving

a strict neutrality in the contest between Sindhia and his brother, endeavoured to prevail on the latter to enter into amicable engagements with the Maharaja ; but his persuasions failed of success, Jaswant Rao being clearly of opinion that Sindhia was determined on effecting his ruin, either by force or fraud.

Sadashiv has crossed the Narbada with a body of cavalry for the purpose of reinforcing Gopal Bhau, who is at present stationed within eight kos of the city of Burhanpur. But Sadashiv is apprehensive of being intercepted and cut off by the enemy ; four battalions of infantry, which were detached from hence with him, having refused to pass the Narbada on account of the late reduction in their pay, which circumstance causes some degree of alarm at this court.

It is generally thought here, that M. Perron acted injudiciously in attempting a reform in the regular troops at this juncture ; it being certain that his conduct on this occasion has excited much discontent, both among the Europeans and natives of the infantry corps ; and hence I am led to conjecture that Jaswant Rao Holkar will gain some decisive advantage over the troops of Sindhia, in the province of Khandesh, before the rainy monsoon commences.

Such Maratha Sardars as are envious or jealous of the power of M. Perron, do not scruple to affirm, that he by no means wishes the total ruin of Holkar ; since in this event the Maharaja would be enabled to repair to Hindustan, and to take upon himself the chief direction of affairs in that quarter.

Whether or not Sindhia has been influenced by these suggestions, I shall not presume to determine ; but I believe it to be an undoubted fact, that General Perron has been given to understand he must relinquish the collections of all the districts which he now possesses in Hindustan, excepting those appertaining to his *jaidad*, the annual revenues of which are estimated forty lakhs of rupees ; at present the General collects nearly eighty lakhs.

In consequence of the intrigues of Colonel Sutherland at this Durbar, he has been removed from the 1st to the 2nd brigade, and ordered to proceed to Hindustan with three battalions of sepoys. Major Pohlman was lately appointed to the command of the 1st brigade, and is, I understand, to remain with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

Sharzaji Ghatge has, at length, been induced to return and take up his residence in the city of Ujjain. This unexpected event is solely ascribable to the interference of Sindhia's wife, who actually repaired to the camp of her father, in order to reconcile him with the Maharaja.

It is said that the following disgraceful stipulations were insisted on, at the suggestion of Jadu Rao, and assented to on the part of Sindhia's father-in-law ; first,—that Sharzaji should not put to death or mutilate

any person, unless by the express orders of Daulat Rao Sindhia ; second, that he (Chatge) was on no account to interfere in the conduct of public business, nor hold private communications, or carry on intrigues, with any of the servants of the Sarkar ; and, lastly, that he should make no pecuniary demands on the Maharaja beyond the amount of the *jagir* which would be settled on him for life.

I had the honour to dine at Daulat Rao Sindhia's palace on the 16th instant in company with such gentlemen of the Residency whose state of health permitted their attendance ; on which occasion the Prince behaved with marked politeness, and attention ; indeed I have at all times experienced the utmost civility, as well from the Maharaja as from his ministers.

It is with concern I inform Your Lordship that this place has proved very unhealthy ; every gentleman who accompanied me hither has at some period since my arrival been much indisposed, and we have now thirty-nine *sepoys* and troopers, and above one hundred camp followers, confined by fevers and other serious disorders ; the vast number of dead bodies that lie unburied all around us (famine having been more destructive in this country than the sword) have, I apprehend, rendered the climate thus unwholesome ; the inhabitants of the city, and General Perron's soldiers, are still more sickly than our people, and I am well assured that the rainy season is by far the most unhealthy of any.

Under these circumstances, I had it in contemplation to solicit permission of the Maharaja to remove from the vicinity of Ujjan ; but on inquiry I found that were I to march any distance from hence for the benefit of change of air, I should in such case have no means of subsisting the detachment, the adjacent country having been so completely destroyed that grain is only procurable in the city, and there even it is monopolized by the Pandits, who will not sell to our Brahmins, at any one time more than may be sufficient for the consumption of a single day.

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship that Mr. Metcalfe joined me at this place yesterday morning.

**No. 52**—The Residency Surgeon is asked to report about the sickness among the escort of Collins, and is asked to opine about the advisability or otherwise of their stay in Ujjain during the coming rains.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—R. WILSON, SURGEON TO THE RESIDENCY AT SINDHIA'S COURT.

*Camp near Ujjain, 26th April 1802.*

In consequence of the representation of Captain Robert Campbell, respecting the sickly state of the *sepoys* of the escort, and from the

knowledge I have obtained of the dangerous condition of a large proportion of servants and followers in our camp, I have been induced to submit the following queries to your consideration, and to request an official reply thereto.

*First.* Mr. Wilson is des'ed to specify the number of troopers, sepoy, and artillery-men now unserviceable from sickness ; and also to describe the general nature of their complaints.

*Second:* Does Mr. Wilson think that their disorders are ascribable to the intense heat of the weather at this particular season—or is he of opinion, that they originate from the noxious temperature of the air in the vicinity of Ujjain ?

*Third.* Does Mr. Wilson conceive, that the sepoy, are likely to enjoy a better state of health at this place during the rainy season, than at present ?

*Fourth.* From the observations Mr. Wilson has made on this climate, does he think that the general health of the soldiers would be endangered, were the escort to remain in the vicinity of Ujjain during the rains ?

*Fifth.* Upon mature consideration, would Mr. Wilson recommend, professionally, a change of air and scene, as necessary for the preservation of the health of the sepoy ?

**No. 53**—When replying to the queries of Collins the Surgeon definitely opines that their stay at Ujjain during the rains would be most inadvisable.

FROM—R. WILSON, SURGEON TO THE RESIDENCY AT SINDHIA'S COURT,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Camp near Ujjain, 27th April 1802.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to state in reply—

*To your first query.*—That there are this day 49 men of the troops totally incapable of duty from sickness, of whom several are dangerously ill ; bilious and intermittent fevers, with some fluxes, are the general complaints ; and all are attended by an uncommonly large secretion of bile.

*To the second query.*—It appears to me that the disorders are chiefly to be ascribed to the great and sudden changes in the temperature of the air at this season ; while the nights are really cold the heat of the day is intense. A climate, under these circumstances, must be very unhealthy to persons not habituated to it.

*To the third query.*—I do not think that the sepoys are likely to enjoy a better state of health in the rains here, than at present ; on the contrary I am of opinion that they will be still more sickly at that season. It is allowed by the people who have long resided at Ujjain, that the rainy season is particularly unhealthy, especially the latter end of it; and that the diseases are then very fatal.

*To the fourth query.*—As far as my observations on the climate extend, I am led to think that Ujjain, and its vicinity, must be very unwholesome in the rains. The black cotton soil, which appears to contain a large portion of animal and vegetable matter in a putrefying state, must occasion exhalations of the most noxious nature after the inundation of the season. The qualities of the water also must be vitiated from the same source. I am, therefore, of opinion that the sickness will then be more general and dangerous than we have hitherto found it.

*To the fifth query.*—I have no doubt whatever, but a change of air would be of the greatest service in restoring the sick to health, in preventing relapses and preserving the health of those who have hitherto been free from disease.

It must be unnecessary for me to state the sickly condition of the gentlemen of the Residency. You yourself have been lately confined by a fever ; Captain Bradshaw had an intermittent, from which he is now recovering ; Captain Campbell and Lieutenant Slessor have had several bilious complaints, and are still far from being well ; and Lieutenant Vaughan and myself are now confined by affections of the liver.

**No. 54**—After settling things favourably for himself, Perren leaves Ujjain for Koil. Collins goes on to add information about the efforts of the Peshwa to reconcile Sindhia with Jaswant Rao Holkar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Ujjain, 28th April 1802.*

General Perron marched from hence on the 23rd instant, intending to proceed to Koil with the least possible delay. He took away the whole of his cavalry and one battalion of sepoys. Of the latter corps three hundred men were, as he assured me, ill with fevers, yet they refused to remain any longer at this place.

Major Brownrigg, an officer who has rendered essential service to the Maharaja on several occasions, has been put under an arrest by General Perron, and is now on his way to Koil under a guard. The Major

is strongly suspected of having been a party in the intrigues of Colonel Sutherland at this Durbar. The latter officer, it is confidently asserted, is to be brought to a general court martial on his arrival at Agra; but, I think, the resentment of General Perron will, ere then, be mitigated, by means of the intercession of Colonel John Hessing, the father-in-law of Mr. Sutherland.

I understand, Daulat Rao Sindhia had it in contemplation to send a Maratha Sardar with General Perron, for the purpose of taking charge of all those districts which he now possesses in Hindustan, not appertaining to his own *jaidad*. But the General having represented that he has not as yet settled the accounts of this year with the Zamindars, and at the same time requesting that the measure of nominating a Naib to Hindustan might be postponed until the conclusion of the ensuing rains, the Maharaja was prevailed on to suspend giving immediate effect to this arrangement. I am, however, inclined to believe, that the entreaties of General Perron would have failed of success, had he not presented a *nazar* of fifteen lakhs of rupees to the Prince at his audience of leave.

I learn that the Peshwa has deputed vakils to this Durbar with the avowed design of reconciling the Holkars to Daulat Rao Sindhia. In my opinion, these agents will find the Maharaja in a favourable disposition to meet the object of their mission, it being, I have reason to think, his present wish to unite the most powerful members of the Maratha Empire in one common interest. This Prince is, moreover, very desirous of repairing to his northern possessions, and cannot in prudence leave the Malwa province, until the existing differences with Jaswant Rao are finally composed.

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 18th instant ten more of our sepoy's have necessarily been sent to the hospital. This increase of the sick list induced me to address certain queries to Mr. Wilson, surgeon of this Residency, copies of which, and of his replies, I herewith transmit for the information of Your Excellency. Two sepoy's have died in the hospital since Mr. Wilson made this report.

**No. 55**—Due to the continued illness among his escort and the opinion of the Residency surgeon, Collins decides to leave Ujjain for Kota, unless he receives instructions to the contrary from the Governor General or Sindhia appears to be disposed to begin any negotiations.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Ujjain, 4th May 1802.*

I have reason to believe that the mediation of the Peshwa to reconcile the contending Maratha Chieftains in this quarter, has already been

productive of some effect, Jaswant Rao Holkar having, in a dispatch that arrived here yesterday, proposed to Daulat Rao Sindhia, and to his ministers, that the troops of the Maharaja should be directed to remain stationary on his own frontier for the present, in which case, he (Jaswant Rao) promises to refrain from committing depredations in the territories of Sindhia.

Jaswant Rao Holkar at the same time intimates a desire, that confidential agents should be nominated on the part of each Sarkar, to settle the conditions of a definitive treaty of peace; and it is my belief, that his overtures will be cordially received, and readily assented to by this Durbar.

It is with extreme concern I am obliged to state, that the health of our sepoys at this place has undergone no favourable change since I last had the honour to address Your Lordship, and it is with equal regret I have to add, that Doctor Wilson is in some degree incapable of paying his usual zealous attention towards the sick on account of an affection of the liver which has confined him to his tent for several days past.

Influenced by these circumstances, but more particularly by the latter, I have, though with reluctance, formed the determination of applying to Daulat Rao Sindhia for his permission to quit Ujjain, and should he not evince any strong desire to detain me, I shall commence my march on the 9th or 10th instant, unless in the intermediate period I should receive directions from Your Lordship to prosecute the negotiation at this court conformably to my original instructions.

However, were I, either on or before my arrival at Kota, to be honoured with Your Lordship's commands to canton at Ujjain during the rains, I shall, in this event, return without loss of time, leaving the sick and infirm in the vicinity of Kota, under the care of Doctor Wilson; there they would at least have the advantage of breathing a purer air, and might likewise be sheltered from the inclemency of the approaching monsoon; here materials for erecting even temporary sheds are not, as far as I can learn, procurable at any price.

And as I have now little intercourse with the Maharaja beyond that which friendship or politeness prescribes, nor indeed am likely to have until he repairs to Hindustan (except in the case adverted to in the latter part of the 4th paragraph of this letter), I humbly conceive, that no political object of importance would be materially affected by my absenting myself from his court for the present; since, at the time when I explain to him the motives which induced the application, I shall also declare in the most explicit terms, that no consideration whatever should prevail on me to move from Ujjain if the Maharaja or his ministers



entertained the most distant idea that I might be required for the adjustment of some object essential to the interests of his government.

But, although I by no means think that my leaving Sindhia's court at the present juncture can be attended with the least disadvantage to the British interests there, yet from an habitual deference toward my superiors, I feel the most lively concern that circumstances, however urgent, should in this instance have reduced me to the necessity of adopting a measure not sanctioned by the previous approbation of Your Lordship.

But were I to defer my march till informed of Your Excellency's sentiments respecting my intended requisition to the Maharaja, the season would be so far advanced, as effectually to preclude my removal to any distance for the benefit of a change of air; since the rainy monsoon commences in this province either very early in June, or towards the latter end of May, when the roads become altogether impassable for carriages and beasts of burden by reason of the numerous streams and rivers which intersect the country in every direction.

Nor am I without apprehension that, on principles of humanity, I might draw on myself the displeasure of Your Excellency, were I, from any fear of incurring personal responsibility, to endanger the lives of those who attended me hither on the public service, in opposition to the recommendation of Doctor Wilson, whose professional opinions on this subject accompanied my dispatch to Your Lordship of the 28th ultimo.

**No. 56**—In view of the sickness prevailing among the escort of Collins and the unhealthy climate of Ujjain, Collins is permitted by the Governor General to move away to any other suitable place.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDEIA.

*Fort William, 6th May 1802.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, under date the 18th ultimo, and to inform you that His Excellency-in-Council, adverting to the circumstances stated in the 10th paragraph of the letter, respecting the insalubrity of the climate in the neighbourhood of Ujjain, and the sickness which prevails in your camp, is pleased to authorize you to remove from your present station to any other which may appear to be more healthy, whenever you may deem such a measure to be expedient, as the state of

your negotiations at the court of Daulat Rao Sindhia appears to be such as to admit of your absence from the court, without hazard to the public interests. His Excellency-in-Council has further directed me to inform you, that if it should appear to you desirable for the benefit of the health of the gentlemen of your suite, and of your escort and followers, you are at liberty to return within the limits of the Company's territories, whence you may hereafter proceed again to the court of Daulat Rao Sindhia, when the period of the season shall become more favourable. This letter is dispatched by express for the purpose of precluding, as far as may be practicable, any further inconvenience to you or to your attendants from the state of the climate at Ujjain.

**No. 57**—Due to sickness among his escort Collins asks Sindhia to be permitted to leave Ujjain. When called for interview Collins tried to clear the various misunderstandings created in the minds of Sindhia and his ministers against the English due to false reports spread by interested persons.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Ujjain, 8th May 1802.*

Conformably to the resolution which I had the honour to signify to Your Lordship in my public address of the 4th instant, I wrote on the following day to Jadu Rao, representing the present sickly state of the gentlemen and sepoys of this Residency, the total want of materials at this place for the purpose of erecting an hospital, as likewise the probable consequences that might attend the exposure of the sick to the inclemency of the approaching season; I then requested, on the preceding grounds, that he would suggest to Daulat Rao Sindhia the expediency of my being permitted to remove from the vicinity of Ujjain, as early as possible; but at the same time I declared, that if he saw any probability of my being required at this court for the adjustment of business, essential to the interests of Sindhia's Government, I would, in this event, remain here at all risks.

The contents of this letter having been explained to Daulat Rao Sindhia, he appointed yesterday evening for a private audience, when I accordingly waited on him. The Maharaja began the discourse, by observing that Jadu Rao had apprized him of my wish to leave Ujjain, as also of the reasons that had induced it; he next proceeded to state that, influenced by a sincere desire to preserve and strengthen the relations of amity and friendship which had so long subsisted between the British

Government and his Sarkar, he was solicitous to have with him, at all times, an English gentleman on the part of His Excellency the Governor General with whom he might confidentially confer on public affairs ; that Your Lordship had in the most obliging manner complied with his requisition, by deputing to his court a person whose conduct merited his entire approbation ; that, on these accounts, he felt real reluctance at the idea of parting with me ; nevertheless, as he was well aware that the climate of this place was at present very unhealthy, he should consent to my departure, in the hope that Your Lordship would allow me to rejoin him immediately after the conclusion of the rainy monsoon.

My reply to the Maharaja was, with an exception of compliments, nearly a repetition of the contents of my letter to Jadu Rao ; however, it occurred to me, I ought to mention that my leaving Ujjain was a sudden measure of my own, and adopted from the pressure of circumstances which Your Lordship could not have foreseen, nor was there, I added, time for a reference to Your Excellency, whose orders on this subject could not possibly reach me before the rains were completely set in, when my removal to any distance hence, for the benefit of a change of air, would be wholly impracticable.

Sindhia fully admitted the justness of my last remark ; after which, he addressed some words, in the Marathi language, to Krishna Chitnavis, who thus explained them to me : that the Maharaja, being the gurantee in the Treaty of Salbai, between the Peshwa and the English, and likewise considering himself as a party therein, trusted that Your Lordship would enter into no new engagements which might be incompatible with the spirit of that treaty, unless, with his previous consent, or through his mediation.-

I replied, that it would be highly presumptuous were I to pretend to have any knowledge of Your Excellency's political views, further than as they are connected with my own departments ; but that this intimation from the Maharaja should be communicated to Your Lordship without delay. In the mean time I would venture to assert, that Your Excellency never entertained a design of forming any engagements, inconsistent with those at present subsisting between the honourable Company and the Sarkar. The Maharaja declared with great promptness, in which he was joined by Jadu Rao, " I require no more."

Being desirous of removing every cause of jealousy, I said that what had fallen from Krishna Chitnavis implied, I thought, a want of confidence in the friendly disposition of Your Lordship towards the Maharaja ; that this apparent doubt I could not but ascribe to the calumnies of certain malicious persons ; and as people of this description frequently occasioned misunderstandings between the sincerest friends, I would instance and refute a few articles of intelligence, which had been written.

to this Durbar with some effect, in order to evince the danger of yielding too ready a belief to the representations of men, whose interests it might be to excite dissensions.

In the first place, I stated that my negotiation at Jaipur had been ascribed to motives inimical to the government of Maharaja, although it was notorious that its sole object was to obtain the surrender of the person of a base assassin, who had sought refuge in the territories of Raja Partab Singh. Secondly, the mission of a wakil, on the part of Your Lordship to the Punjab, had been most grossly misrepresented, for the purpose of raising the jealousy of the Maharaja towards the English, though, in fact Yusuf Ali Khan had been deputed thither for no other end than that of dissuading Raja Ranjit Singh, from forwarding the ambitious views of Zaman Shah on Hindustan; and lastly, that I had been accused at this Durbar, by letter, of carrying on a correspondence with the Bais and their adherents; whereas, I had never written a line to either, while they were acting in opposition to the Maharaja, and had invariably refused to admit of a visit from any of the latter.

After making these remarks, I suggested that Sindhia, by the happy termination of all differences with the ladies of his family, by the conciliation of the Sikh Chiefs, and by the ascendancy he had acquired at the Jaipur Durbar, might easily prove the truth of my assertions. Both Jadu Rao and Chitnavis exclaimed, with much seeming earnestness, "We have no longer the smallest doubt of the falsehood of those stories to which you allude", upon this, I immediately rejoined, "Then I have a right to expect that in future no credit whatever shall be given to the fabricators of those malicious reports. Their names I will not ask, having reason to believe that they are the very same persons whose insinuations excited those doubts which gave rise to the present explanation."

The ministers, after this, were most liberal in their assurances, that the Maharaja was more than ever disposed to conciliate Your Excellency's regard, and to preserve the existing alliance with the English nation. I avowed my firm belief of the sincerity of their declarations, but remarked, at the same time, that, were I disposed to pay attention to vague reports, I might draw a different conclusion; since I had been informed, through various channels, that the Maharaja had entered into close connections with the Sikh Chiefs, for purposes hostile to the British interests in India: that these reports had also reached Your Lordship, but that Your Excellency, confiding in the power and resources of our government, and relying as well on the wisdom as on the friendly intentions of the Maharaja, had received the intelligence with the most perfect indifference.

No answer followed this observation; and a pause in the conversation having ensued, Sindhia took his opportunity of whispering

to me, that in future I must pay no regard to any letters I might receive in his name, unless they bore the impression of his own seal. As I conceived this caution to be pointed against some particular individuals, whom I wished to discover, I replied that the impression of the seal of Maharaja, might possibly have been imitated, as it must have been committed to the charge of many of his servants at different periods; I, therefore, requested that he would suggest to me some mode by which I could detect a deception of this nature; Sindhia, on consulting with his ministers, said he would annex a particular mark to his letters, of which my Munshi should be apprized.

His suspicions are, I fancy, directed towards Sharzaji Ghatge and Ambaji Rao. No further discourse, any way interesting, passed at this interview.

On the evening of tomorrow I am to have my audience of leave from the Maharaja; and on the following day I purpose pursuing my journey. Another of our sepoy died yesterday, and we have now fifty-five men confined in the hospital, several of whom are dangerously ill. Doctor Wilson is of opinion, however, that the lives of the latter may be preserved by a timely change of air.

**No. 58**—Collins is given congee and is asked by Sindhia not to attend to any communication from Sharzaji Ghatge.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Bichroda, 10th May 1802.*

I waited on Daulat Rao Sindhia yesterday afternoon, by appointment, in order to take my leave. He received me with marked kindness; and in addition to the usual *khilat* presented me with an elephant and horse, which compliment, I am told, was never received by any of my predecessors on similar occasions, at this court.

When I rose to depart, the Maharaja expressed a desire to speak a few words to me in private, the substance of which was, that he had entirely withdrawn his confidence from Sharzaji Ghatge, and that, as this chief was divested of all authority in the direction of public affairs, he (Sindhia) requested that in future I should pay no attention to any communications from that Sardar.

I gave the Maharaja every assistance he could possibly require to satisfy him on this head; and I, moreover, said that I should incur the severest censure of Your Excellency, were I so regardless of the duties of my situation, as to maintain a correspondence with any of his servants, whose conduct I knew had drawn on them his displeasure.

I arrived here early this morning, and have the pleasure to inform Your Lordship that none of our sick has suffered in consequence of the journey. But had it not been for the friendly exertions of Sindhia's ministers, I should neither have been able to procure carriage for the infirm, nor grain sufficient to subsist our troops until their arrival in the territories of the Kota Raja, from whose country Ujjain receives its chief supplies of that article.

I have the honour to forward a *kharita* to Your Excellency's address from Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 59**—Collins corrects some details of the information supplied by him to the Governor General about the army of Perron, and adds the latest news about Jaswant Rao Holkar and Perron.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Bakhani, 16th May 1802.*

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship of my being arrived within the territories of the Kota Raja.

Our sick have already derived considerable benefit from the change of air, several of the sepoys having been discharged this day from the hospital, and of those who were dangerously ill, many are now in a fair way of recovery. It is with concern I have to state that Doctor Wilson, and every gentleman of our party, Mr. Metcalfe and myself excepted, continue very unwell.

My advices from Ujjain mention that a cessation of hostilities has lately taken place between the troops of Daulat Rao Sindhia and Jaswant Rao Holkar in Khandesh. They further state that Kashi Rao has fled to the fortress of Sindhva, on suspicion that his brother Jaswant Rao had formed a design of securing his person. Kashi Rao is held in no estimation among the Marathas, either on the score of ability, or personal resolution; while, on the other hand, his brother, although of a most cruel disposition, is generally respected on account of his acknowledged bravery.

Bappu Rao Angria is arrived at Poona, and I understand Sindhia has written in pressing terms to hasten his journey to Ujjain. The Maharaja certainly has at present great occasion for the assistance of this chief, Jadu Rao being, from constant illness, incapable of attending to public business; and since the disgrace of Sharzaji Ghatge, I know of no other sardar who can be deemed equal to the conduct of the affairs of his government.

M. Perron has paid the Jaipur Raja a visit for the purpose, as is said, of prevailing on Partab Singh to dismiss his present minister, Rai Chand. However indecent an interference of this nature may appear,

yet it is by no means incredible, since General Perron has of late assumed a high tone of authority at the Durbars of the Princes and Chiefs of Hindustan. By his advice, or orders, Begam Sumru was induced to send four battalions of sepoys to Ujjain, in the vicinity of which city they are now encamped. These corps are commanded by a Frenchman named Saleur.

Upon further enquiry of another English officer in the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, I learn that General Perron's infantry brigades are not yet regularly formed into ten battalions each, but that it is his intention to level them whenever the Maharaja repairs to Hindustan; I find also, that there are no gallopers attached to the regular cavalry, but only to the Hindustani horse. In other respects, the information I had the honour to give Your Lordship, in my public address of the 7th ultimo, is perfectly correct, General Perron having four brigades and forty battalions of sepoys, including those doing duty in garrisons, with the artillery and cavalry therein noticed. I understand, however, that he has taken into his own service four of the best of Filose's battalions, and the same number from Colonel Hessing's brigade.

Perron's four brigades are commanded by Colonels Sutherland, Pedron, Lucan and Major Pohlman; the latter officer expects soon to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The battalions are very incomplete at present, both with respect to European officers and sepoys; but I am told he designs to recruit them without delay.

Lieutenant-Colonel Scott had the goodness to transmit to me copies of the treaties concluded between the Rajah of Patiala and General Perron. As Your Excellency has received transcripts of the same, I shall make no further remark on those engagements than that their authenticity has been partly corroborated by my own news-writer at Patiala, with respect to their purport, though he has not detailed the different articles thereof.

**No. 60**—The Governor General entirely approves of the way in which Collins performed his diplomatic duties during his visit to Sindhia, and in recognition of his meritorious services to the Company appoints him his own honorary A. D. C.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 20th May 1802.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General in Council, to acknowledge the receipt of your several dispatches noted in the margin.

His Excellency-in-Council directs me to communicate to you his entire approbation of the line of conduct which you have pursued in your conference with Daulat Rao Sindhia ; His Excellency is satisfied that the failure of your endeavours to encourage in Sindhia a disposition to enter into any negotiation upon the principles of His Excellency's instructions transmitted to you under date the 15th of January last, is to be ascribed to causes which no exertion of ability and address could have enabled you to remove. His Excellency-in-Council, however, observes with satisfaction, that your late intercourse with Daulat Rao Sindhia has had the effect of improving the amicable relations subsisting between the Company and that Chieftain.

I am directed to communicate to you His Excellency's particular approbation of the tenor of your declarations and remarks to Daulat Rao Sindhia and his ministers at your conference on the 7th instant as detailed in your dispatch of the 8th.

I am further directed to inform you, that His Excellency the Governor General takes this occasion to afford a public testimony of the high sense which His Excellency entertains of the zeal and ability which distinguished your conduct during the whole course of your diplomatic duty, and of the meritorious services which you have rendered to the Company, by appointing you to be one of His Excellency's honorary Aides-de-Camp.

His Excellency-in-Council entirely approves the movement which you have made towards Kota for the reasons stated in your dispatch of the 4th instant.

**No. 61**—Collins reports the death of his Munshi, Hussajn Ali Khan, and of the appointment of Mirza Muhammad Bakar Khan to the vacancy thus created.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Kota, 23rd May 1802.*

I arrived at Kota early this morning, and have the satisfaction of informing Your Excellency, that the general health of the gentlemen and soldiers of my party has been considerably improved since I last had the honour to address Your Lordship.

Doctor Wilson being decidedly of opinion that a continued change of air will be the best preventive against relapses, I purpose prosecuting my journey towards the Company's provinces with least possible delay.

Daulat Rao Sindhia did not hesitate a single day in issuing the necessary orders for the apprehension of William Dodd ; and, should



this deserter be found within the territories of the Maharaja, I have no doubt of his being readily surrendered, conformably to Your Excellency's requisition. A description of the person of William Dodd has been sent to the *amil* of Ahmadnagar.

I understand the late reduction in the pay of Sindhia's regular infantry has caused so alarming a desertion from Major Pohlman's brigade, that the Maharaja has been obliged to authorize the Major to come to some compromise with the sepoys in order to induce their return to the service; this event occurred soon after my departure from Ujjain.

Sindhia is said to be extremely solicitous of a visit from Ambaji Rao; and the *vakil* of this Chief has assured the Maharaja, that his master had fixed on the 21st instant for commencing his journey towards the Presence. I shall, however, be somewhat surprised if Ambaji trusts his person at the court of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

Advices from Peshawar, under date the 22nd of last April, mention, that the forces of Mahmud Shah had completely defeated and dispersed the rebels of the Ghilzi tribe, and the troops of Shuja-ul-Mulk. They further state, that the latter chieftain had fled to the hill of Khyber, after losing nearly a thousand men.

It is with more than common concern, that I apprise Your Excellency of the recent death of Hussain Ali Khan, who for many years past held the situation of Munshi to this Residency. He was a most faithful as well as zealous public servant, and, on this account, I sincerely regret his loss, nor can I but with feelings of compassion reflect that he has left a mother, wife, and three young children, destitute of means for their future subsistence.

I have appointed Mirza Mahomad Bakar Khan (a person who is well-known to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone) to the vacancy in my department occasioned by the death of Hussain Ali, in the conviction that the Mirza is perfectly qualified for the duties of the office.

**No. 62.**—Collins informs the Governor General about the anxious desire of the Jaipur Raja to conclude a treaty of defensive alliance with the British.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Minapur, 3rd June 1802.*

Since my departure from Kota on the 24th ultimo, much rain has fallen in these parts, which, I am sorry to say, has occasioned some few relapses

among our sick, one of which died three days ago. However, of the thirty men now in the hospital, all are convalescent, excepting an havildar, who still continues dangerously ill. It is my intention to cross the Jamna, at Muttra, as I am anxious to arrive within the Doab as early as possible, on account of the salubrious temperature of that climate.

When the Jaipur Raja was informed of my march from Ujjain, he immediately deputed Dinaram Bohra to receive me at the frontier district of his dominions. Accordingly, this Sardar met me at Bhagwantgarh on the 31st of last month, and tendered a *ziyafat* of one thousand rupees, on the part of the Raja ; but I declined acceptance of this present, on the ground of my being merely a traveller, and not a visitor, in the territories of Raja Partab Singh : though at the same time I expressed a grateful sense of the hospitality of his Prince on this occasion.

I soon discovered, by the discourse of the Bohra, that his master is now more desirous than ever of engaging in a treaty of defensive alliance with the British Government, since he could not desist importuning me on this subject, until after I had repeatedly declared that I possessed no authority whatever, even to enter into any discussion of the kind. At length Dinaram, finding he could make no impression on me, said, he should hasten back to Jaipur in framing certain propositions that would shortly be transmitted to Your Excellency, under the seal of Raja Partab Singh.

The Bohra took a most friendly leave of me yesterday, when he got the usual *khilat*. Previous to his going away, he told me in confidence, that his master was determined to submit no longer to the disgrace of paying tribute to the Marathas ; that Partab Singh had already advanced one crore of rupees to Sindhia, which sum of money was all that could justly be claimed from his Sarkar by treaty. Dinaram also assured me, that his Prince was resolved in future to keep up a regular force of eight battalions of sepoys, with a proportionable artillery, formed and disciplined by British officers. Indeed it is so far certain, that the Jaipur Raja has lately engaged the services of several English gentlemen, among whom is a Major Gardiner, of whose military talents report speaks favourably.

My advices from Ujjain mention, that Jaswant Rao Holkar had proceeded thirty-five *kos* beyond Burhanpur, on the road towards Poona ; but that this Chief had committed no depredations on his route through the country of the Maharaja. They further state, that Jaswant Rao was encamped at the Ghat of Taurus [?], where he expected to have an interview with Amrit Rao. The *Bavan Paga* Sardars already joined Holkar, whose present line of conduct seems to have excited extreme jealousy at the court of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

¶ I learn that Ambaji, instead of repairing to the Maharaja at Ujjain, conformably to the assurances given by his wakil at that Durbar, was at Mathura on the 28th ultimo, and proposed paying his personal respects to General Perron at Koil.

I have this instant received a letter from my agent Ganpat Rai; in which he informs me, that Sindhia, by exposing his person to the sun and rain, had brought on a severe fever, attended with very bad symptoms.

**No. 63**—Surgeon Wilson requests the Governor General that he be removed from his present appointment to some other in the army.

FROM—R. WILSON, SURGEON TO THE RESIDENCY AT SINDHIA'S COURT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 23rd June 1802.*

Permit me, with the utmost deference, to request that Your Excellency will condescend to remove me from my present appointment in the Residency with Daulat Rao Sindhia, and to direct my being posted to some corps in the army, or to such situation as Your Lordship may deem expedient.

**No. 64**—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the dissatisfaction of Perron and Ambaji towards Sindhia, and adds that nothing has yet come out about the proposed political connection between Sindhia and Ranjit Singh of Lahore.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 24th June 1802.*

I have the honour to apprise Your Excellency, that I arrived yesterday in the vicinity of Fatehgarh with the detachment which accompanied me in my late mission to the court of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia.

Two of our sepoys have died since my departure from Ujjain; but I have the pleasure to inform Your Lordship that many of the sick have, during the journey, been discharged from the hospital; and that of those who are still confined by indisposition, two only are dangerously ill.

Ambaji Rao and General Perron came to meet me about a *kos* from Koil, and both were very urgent in requesting me to remain there one day at least. But I excused myself on account of the near approach of the rainy monsoon ; and at this time my health was so indifferent, that I could not dine with the General who, I knew, had prepared an entertainment for me and the gentlemen of my suite.

A few hours after my arrival at Koil, Ambaji Rao sent his confidential agent Kamgar Khan to assure me that he still hoped for the protection of Your Excellency against the designs of his enemies ; and that he purposed at the expiration of the ensuing rains, to repair to Benares with his family, in order to perform ablution there. I took no notice of the first part of this message, but to the last I answered, that whenever he applied for passports, according to the prescribed forms, I had no doubt of their being granted.

General Perron has been peremptorily directed by Sindhia to give up all the *mahals* in his possession, not appertaining to his own *jaidad* ; and I understand from good authority, that the General is highly displeased with the conduct of Sindhia's ministers on this occasion, in so much that he entertains serious intentions of relinquishing his present command in the service of the Maharaja. Indeed, when I was at Koil, he assured me that, ere long, I might probably see him at Fatehgarh.

Major Louis has not as yet been able to prevail on Ranjit Singh, the Lahore Raja, to enter into any political connection with Daulat Rao Sindhia. In consequence, the Major's military operations have received a check, since he dare not attempt to cross the Satlaj in opposition to the wishes of Ranjit Singh. In fact, his exactions among those Sikh Chiefs with whom he has formed alliances, have excited general discontent in that part of the country, and to this I partly ascribe a letter lately addressed to me by Saheb Sing, the Patiala Raja, pressing a renewal of the former friendly correspondence that subsisted between him and me.

Advices from Kabul, under date the 23rd of last May, state, that Mahmud Shah had reconciled to his interests the chiefs of the Ghilzi tribe, that Shuja-ul-Mulk has again fled to the hills of Khyber, and that the affairs of the Shah in general had assumed a most favourable aspect.

No event of importance has recently occurred at Ujjain ; but I learn that the Maharaja has effected a reconciliation between Sharzaji Ghatge and Jadu Rao, the sincerity of which may however well be doubted.

I have the honour to forward a letter to Your Excellency's address from Mr. Wilson, Assistant Surgeon to this Residency ; and humbly beg leave to observe that I should feel gratified by Your Lordship's compliance with the request contained therein.

**No. 65**—Collins mentions the petition of Perron to Sindhia that some one else be appointed to the command of the battalions under him and also points out the jealousy of the Khalsa Sikh Chiefs towards Perron and his designs.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 4th July 1802.*

My native agent at the court of Daulat Rao Sindhia informs me, that General Perron has lately addressed an *arzi* to the Maharaja to the following effect.

“ That he (General Perron) has in his service forty-four battalions of sepoys, well appointed in all respects ; that the annual expense of these corps, including stores, &c. amounted to fifty lakhs of rupees, exclusive of the pay of a body of cavalry which he had been obliged to entertain ; that the Maharaja would make whatever reduction he thought proper in his military establishment, and likewise assign a *jaidad* for the payment of the same to some other officer who might be deemed competent to the command ”. M. Perron concluded this letter by observing, that as His Excellency the most noble the Governor General was shortly expected at Lucknow, it would be advisable on the part of Sindhia to come to a speedy accommodation with Jaswant Rao Holkar, in order that he may be enabled to repair to his possessions in this quarter, after the expiration of the present rainy monsoon.

Major Louis has quitted his position on the banks of the river Satlaj, and is now on his march back to Hansi, where he means to canton during the rains. The manners of this officer are far from conciliating ; and I have reason to think that his late conduct was by no means calculated to impress the Sikh Sardars with a favourable opinion of M. Perron's friendly disposition towards them.

Indeed I firmly believe that the Khalsa Chiefs in general entertain a strong jealousy of the designs of General Perron, and not without cause, since, should he retain his present command two years longer, I have no doubt but that he will, during this period, subdue the Punjab entirely, or oblige the principal men of that country to become tributary to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, in like manner as the Rajput Princes now are.

I have the honour to enclose a copy and translate of a letter to my address from Raja Ranjit Singh of Lahore.

No. 65A—Enclosure.

*Copy of a letter from Rajah Ranjit Singh of Lahore to Colonel John Collins.*

I wrote repeatedly to you before this, and I forwarded, through Mir Muhammad Ali Khan, a *kharita* for the most noble the Governor General.

You have, undoubtedly, perused my letters, and have consequently become acquainted with the situation of affairs in this quarter; but as I have yet received no answer to any of them,\* I still continue to expect one.

Having already apprized you of some occurrences in these parts, as well as of the receipt of letters from General Perron and others, I now briefly recapitulate the same; my affairs here are arranged to my satisfaction, and I am returned to Lahore. Raja Bhag Singh Bahadur, my maternal uncle, accompanied by vakils on the part of General Perron, Raja Saheb Singh, and M. Louis, &c. are arrived here with presents for me; they have proposed to me to enter into terms of amity and friendship with General Perron. I observed, by stating the value of your kindness and regard, that in fact I was attached to the interest of the most noble the Governor General, and you, and that it was a difficult matter to maintain a friendship with all parties. As Raja Bhag Singh is under many obligations to General Perron, he sought to gain me by every mode of persuasion, urging at the same time the great desire of the General to have a meeting with me. In fine, although my friendship for the most noble the Governor General, and you, is great, beyond the possibility of what I can feel towards anybody else, yet I must preserve appearances on this occasion, in consideration of what is due by me to the will of my uncle.

Seeing that you had forgotten me, I was about to repay you the same civilities you had rendered me, but was obliged to postpone my intention in consequence of the departure from this by your orders of your agents who knew the proper mode of managing matters of that nature. It was also my intention to depute a wakil to you, but the people of the country being ignorant of your manners and customs, that measure too was suspended. If, however, I shall meet with a person acquainted with your usage, I will immediately dispatch him to you.

\*I have replied to every letter I received from Raja Ranjit Singh, and always in the most friendly terms.—Collins.

**No. 66**—Collins informs Close that he is awaiting instructions from the Governor General and further points out that his writing to Sindhia at that time would be of no avail.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO —B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fatehgarh, 16th September 1802.*

Your letters of the 20th, 21st and 23rd ultimo, arrived here this morning, together with a dispatch from Ganpat Rai, my agent at Ujjain, informing me that he had received *kharitas* from the honourable Governor Duncan, and you, to the address of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, which had been presented without delay.

As any representation on my part to the Maharaja could not possibly reach Ujjain in time to prevent the approach of Naggu Pant to the frontier of Gujrat, and as from the contents of the dispatch forwarded here on the 20th of last month to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, I have every reason to expect that I shall shortly receive instructions from His Excellency, for the guidance of my conduct in this delicate business. I am of opinion that my writing to Sindhia could, at any rate be of no avail, and might not possibly be approved by the most noble the Governor General.

Since, were the Maharaja to suspect that I knew of an alliance being formed between the honourable Company and Gaikwad Raja, and had concealed so important an event from him, it might tend considerably to lessen that confidence which he at present avows to have in my friendly disposition towards him, and which may eventually be productive of some advantage to the public interest.

**No. 67**—Collins forwards to Edmonstone a copy of his letter to Sindhia sent along with the address from the Governor General. Collins further adds that his interference in the matter would be nugatory if not improper.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

*Fatehgarh, 29th September 1802.*

Yesterday I received your two letters under date the 15th instant, with their respective enclosures ; viz. first, a copy of a letter from the Governor-

in-Council of Bombay to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General: second, a copy of a letter from the most noble the Governor General to the honourable the Governor of Bombay: third, His Excellency's letter for Daulat Rao Sindhia: fourth, copies in English and Persian of the above.

The address of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to Daulat Rao Sindhia, was forwarded this day accompanied by a letter from me, copies of which, in English and Persian (No. 1), I do myself the honour to inclose.

Having never received official information of the recent engagements concluded between our government and the Gaikwad's State, and as the honourable the Governor of Bombay as well as the Resident at Poona had written fully to the Maharaja on the subject of the approach of Naggu Pant towards the frontier of Gujrat, I conceived that any further interference in the business on my part would at least be nugatory, if not improper. For these reasons, joined to those assigned by me in the accompanying letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Close [of September 16, 1802], I declined making any remonstrance to Sindhia on the supposed compulsory orders given to Naggu Pant; I say "supposed," because I am by no means satisfied that the menacing letter, addressed to Raoji Appaji by Jadu Rao Bhaskar, was not written solely with a view of intimidating the former into a disclosure of the extent of the engagements which had been entered into between the British Government and the Gaikwad's State.

Pursuant to the orders of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, I shall immediately transmit transcripts of your dispatches of the 13th instant to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Ceded Provinces, and shall regularly apprise him of the result of my communications with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 67A—Enclosure.**

*Copy of a Letter addressed to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia by  
Colonel John Collins, Resident.*

The accompanying letter from His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, will apprise my friend of certain engagements which the British Government has lately concluded with Anand Rao Gaikwad for the purpose of protecting the dominions and supporting the right of that Chieftain. The Maharaja cannot but recollect the 8th article of the



Treaty of Salbai expressly stipulates, that whatever territory Fateh Singh Gaikwad possessed at the commencement of the war (1775) should thereafter for ever remain on the usual footing in his possession : it was in support of the spirit and intent of this stipulation, that the British Government, ever faithful to its engagements, was induced on the application of Anand Rao Gaikwad, the rightful heir and successor of the late Govind Rao Gaikwad, to dispatch a force to Gujrat, in order to support the legal government against the rebels who had attempted to subvert it : and also to consent that a body of British troops should be permanently stationed within the territories of Anand Rao, as well with a view to prevent the recurrence of similar disturbances, as to afford in future to the British Government the most effectual means of fulfilling the existing obligations of the treaty. When my friend considers the foregoing circumstances with his usual discrimination and judgment, he will readily admit, that His Excellency could not but feel both surprise and concern on being informed that Naggu Pant had been detached with a considerable force for the prosecution of hostile measures against a state, the tranquillity and prosperity of which the British Government was engaged by treaty to maintain and promote ; more particularly as the adjustment of any pecuniary demands my friend might have on that country could be effectually secured without having recourse to violent means, which surely ought not to be resorted to, except in cases where all just and reasonable satisfaction had been previously applied for and denied.

However, so well am I convinced of the friendly disposition of the Maharaja, as likewise his sincere wish and intention to preserve the relations of amity and friendship at present subsisting between the honourable Company and his Sarkar, that I shall feel no hesitation in assuring the most noble the Governor General, that Naggu Pant would never have been directed to approach the frontier of Gujrat for hostile purpose, had my friend been apprized of the arrangements recently formed by the British Government with the Gaikwad's State : I shall further venture to assure His Excellency, that as the Maharaja has always been distinguished by a faithful adherence to his engagements with his own allies and tributaries, he could not, consistently with his character, nor without deviating from his wonted wisdom and prudence, refuse to countermand the compulsory orders which Naggu Pant is reported to have received ; since any other line of conduct would be to pursue measures obviously tending to reduce the British Government to the painful alternative, either of violating the faith it has so lately pledged for the defence of the Gaikwad's State, or of

opposing the aggressions of a Prince with whom the honourable Company has for a considerable period of time maintained the most friendly connections, and which it is the sincere desire of His Excellency not only to preserve without diminution, but even to improve : nevertheless, however repugnant the latter alternative might be to the feelings of the most noble the Governor General, yet the sincerity of my friendship for the Maharaja will not permit me to conceal from him that His Excellency would adopt this alternative, and that with prompt decision, rather than permit the good faith of the British Government to be in any degree implicated ; in fine, impartial justice, and a due attention to the honour of the English character are the leading principles which invariably govern the conduct of His Excellency in all political transactions with the Princes and Chieftains of India.

**No. 68**—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the movements at the court of Sindhia and the activities of his generals and sardars. All efforts are being made by Sindhia to stop and curb Jaswant Rao Holkar.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 10th October 1802.*

No military operations deserving Your Lordship's notice have taken place in the Deccan since I had last the honour to address Your Excellency. But my advices from Ujjain mention, that Daulat Rao Sindhia is resolved on prosecuting the war against Jaswant Rao Holkar with vigour at the conclusion of the rainy monsoon.

I understand the army of the Maharaja is to be formed into three divisions ; the first under Sadashiv, who is to be reinforced by Major Pohlman's brigade, is to act in conjunction with the Peshwa's troops ; the second under command of Gopal Bhau, consisting of four sepoy battalions from the brigade formerly subject to the minister Jadu Rao, is to take post on the banks of the Narbada in order to prevent Jaswant Rao from crossing that river, and carrying his incursions into the Subah of Malwa. The strength of this division has not been specified by my native agent.

Sindhia has directed General Perron to repair to Ujjain for the purpose of concerting measures preparatory to the opening of the next campaign, and likewise calls on the General for a supply of money to defray the expenses thereof : General Perron, in reply, writes that the reduction of Holkar cannot be effected in a few months ; therefore, it would be more advisable were the Maharaja to detach Gopal Bhau upon that service, and move himself towards Hindustan.

It appears that Sindhia has lately apprized General Perron that the city and fortress of Agra, together with some *mahals* in its vicinity, the annual revenue of which amounts to eleven lakhs of rupees, have been assigned in *jaidad* to Gopal Bhau, and the Maharaja directs that these places be immediately delivered over to Bishwa Nath, Gopal Bhau's *vakil* ; on his arrival at Agra, Colonel Hessian Junior is ordered to repair to the Presence with his brigade, without delay.

The troops of Sindhia, commanded by M. John Baptiste, have taken the fortress of Rampora Birabhan [Bhanpura ?], a place of considerable strength, and the only one now remaining in the possession of Jaswant Rao Holkar, in the province of Malwa, with the exception of a hill fort named Hinglaja-Garh.

Bapu Rao Angria informs Sindhia it has been proposed by the Peshwa, that Khande Rao Holkar should be set at liberty ; and that the Maharaja should also restore to Jaswant Rao the greatest part of his possessions in Malwa, reserving only such a portion thereof as might indemnify him (Sindhia) for all losses resulting from the present war. The Maharaja, in answer, observed that he would readily comply with the wishes of Baji Rao to accommodate all differences with Holkar, whom it would, however, be necessary to punish in the first instance, in order that he might be induced to accept reasonable terms.

Daulat Rao Sindhia has solicited the permission of the Peshwa to detach a force to Bundelkhand for the purpose of securing those districts which had been subdued by the late Nawab Ali Bahadur. The Maharaja observes that he makes this request solely with a view of preserving tranquillity in that country, and on the supposition that Baji Rao might not be able to send a force thither immediately.

Chain Singh, Dewan to the Patiala Raja, accompanied by the *vakil* of Jadu Singh, a petty Sikh Chief, arrived at Koil on the 21st ultimo, and were received by General Perron with great distinction. The expedition against the Punjab is, however, at a stand for the present, on account of a violent quarrel between General Perron and Major Louis ; in consequence of which the latter was put under close arrest on the very

day when he was to have set off for Hansi, accompanied by Lal Singh of Kaithal, in order to take the command of the troops destined to act against the Sikhs.

Both Ambaji and General Perron continue to augment their forces; and their conduct in this particular has occasioned considerable alarm to the Raja of Jaipur, and the minister of the late Nawab Ali Bahadur, whose successor is a boy about four years old; there is, however, another son at Poona, who I understand is of age.

Zalim Singh, the Raj Rana of Kota, being very desirous that I would forward a *kharita* from him to Your Excellency, I have been induced to comply with his request, in consideration of his friendly disposition towards Your Lordship's Government, as well as on account of his general good character.

**No. 69**—Edmonstone informs Collins that the Governor General has never considered it incumbent on the British Government to inform Sindhia about its negotiations with the Gaikwad.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 17th October 1802.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, under date the 29th ultimo, transmitting copies of your letters to the Resident at Poona and Daulat Rao Sindhia, on the subject of the apprehended invasion of Gujrat by the troops of that chieftain under the command of Naggu Pant.

The perusal of those documents has suggested to His Excellency-in-Council the expediency of apprizing you, that His Excellency has never thought it incumbent on this government to render to Daulat Rao Sindhia any account of the late negotiations between the British Government and the Gaikwad, nor of the transactions connected with them.

His Excellency-in-Council, therefore, desires that any communication which you may have occasion to make to Daulat Rao Sindhia, or his ministers, on points connected with the state of Gaikwad, may be regulated with reference to that consideration.



## SECTION 3

*Events leading to the Second Maratha War  
(14th November 1802 to 31st May 1803.)*

**No. 70**—Collins is supplied with copies of all relevant papers connected with the inroad of Sindhia's forces into the district of Aurangabad, and is asked to forward the letter from the Governor General addressed to Sindhia along with his own representations on the subject.

**FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVT.,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Fort William, 14th November 1802.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General-in-Council to transmit to you for your information, the enclosed extracts from the letters of the Resident at Hyderabad to His Excellency's address [Enclosure No. 1], and copies in English and Persian of the papers therein referred to [Enclosure No. 2], together with a copy of the instructions issued to the Resident on the subject of those documents as specified in the margin.

You will also receive by the present dispatch, from the Persian Department His Excellency the most noble the Governor General's original letter to Daulat Rao Sindhia, referred to in the above-mentioned instructions.

His Excellency-in-Council desires that you will forward that letter to Daulat Rao Sindhia by the safest and speediest conveyance, accompanied by such representations on your own part, in the spirit of its contents, as may appear to you to be proper.

**No. 70A—Enclosure.**

*Extract from a letter from the Resident at Hyderabad, dated 25th October 1802.*

At this audience the minister did not fail to introduce the subject of the devastations committed by Daulat Rao Sindhia's troops in his master's territories, of which he furnished me with a fresh instance, still more aggravating than the preceding one from a paper of intelligence just received (a copy and translation of which are herewith inclosed for Your Excellency's notice) and concluded by requesting in His Highness's name, that I would delay no longer my intended remonstrance with Daulat Rao Sindhia's vakil, including a demand of some satisfaction or indemnity for the heavy losses incurred, which latter point, however, I gave the minister to understand, when the audience was over, must be left entirely to Your Excellency, from whom alone such a demand could either with propriety or with efficacy proceed.

On my return from audience, I sent a message to Sindhia's stationary vakil at this Durbar, importing a desire of seeing him as early as possible on business of urgent importance, which did not, however, produce the desired effect before this forenoon, when he called upon me, accompanied by Anand Rao Sabhapati, Raja Ragotim Rao's deputy, who is in the habits of attending on such occasions.

After the usual interchange of compliments, my Munshi, by my direction, read to Sindhia's vakil the several papers of intelligence lately transmitted from Aurangabad, relative to the depredations committed by that chieftain's troops; after which, addressing myself to the vakil, I said that he could be no stranger to the nature of subsisting engagements between His Highness the Nizam and the Company's Government, which in fact were such as to identify completely their mutual interests, and render it indispensably incumbent on the government, I had the honour of representing, to consider any aggression committed against the possessions of His Highness, precisely in the same light as committed against their own: that such being the case, and His Highness having signified his wishes to me for the purpose, it now became my duty to insist on the most decisive steps being adopted to put an immediate stop to proceedings so contrary to the avowed good understanding subsisting between both the British Government, His Highness, and his master; and to require that he would with such view, report without delay what I had just delivered in writing to his court, accompanied by copies of the papers of intelligence which had been just communicated to him; that I expected an early satisfactory answer to the present remonstrance; and that, adverting to the magnitude of the injury which these territories

have sustained by the ruinous depredations complained of, it would not be extraordinary were Your Excellency yourself to require from Daulat Rao Sindhia, in behalf of the Nizam, such reparation as might be suited to the circumstances of the case, and calculated to tranquillize the mind of your ally ; which concluding observation I added as the only possible one that occurred to me of meeting in some degree the Nizam's estimated wishes with respect to the looked for indemnification.

Sindhia's vakil neither pleaded ignorance of the alleged aggression, nor pretended to justify them any further than by observing, that some time last year depredations had been committed in his master's possessions by an officer of His Highness the Nizam, commanding on the Berar frontier, to the estimated amount of a lakh of rupees, but which had been overlooked by his master as too trifling to call for either remonstrance or representation ; he assured me, at the same time, that he would immediately transmit a faithful account of his interview with me to Ujjain, and make known to me the substance of the answer he might receive, offering to furnish me moreover with a copy of the letter he was about to address to his Court on the occasion, an offer which as yet has not been fulfilled.

The Durbar's agent, Anand Rao Sabhapati, expressed himself highly satisfied with the terms in which I had thus remonstrated with Sindhia's vakil, and as they both intended proceeding direct to the minister's upon leaving my abode, I recommended to Anand Rao to recapitulate to Azim-ul-Umrah, in the vakil's presence, the substance of what passed at the present visit, which he assured me he would not fail doing.

Having just received advice from Colonel Close, of his entertaining strong expectations (from particular circumstances) of prevailing on the Peshwa to accept, under certain authorized modification, Your Excellency's proposals, I shall enter, without a moment's delay, on the negotiations directed by Your Lordship's instructions to me of the 23rd June last, through the Secretary in the Political Department ; and though from the attempts which I have already made, I foresee great, if not insurmountable, obstacles to obtaining the Nizam's acquiescence to the unexecuted treaty of the Zilhija 1203 [July, 1794 A.D.], being taken as the basis of arbitration of existing differences between His Highness and the Peshwa, I do not equally despair of prevailing on His Highness to consent to a relaxation in the conditions of both clauses of the 1st article of the secret and separate articles of the Treaty of 1800, or even perhaps to a total suspension or abrogation of the prohibitory clause, so as to leave Your Lordship perfectly at liberty, if necessary, to conclude a treaty with the Peshwa, without entering into any stipulations whatever (not even for arbitration on any footing) in behalf of this government.



**No. 70B**—Enclosure to the above No. 70A.

*Translation of an Arzi from the Talukadar of Matree, communicated by Azim-ul-umrah to the Resident, 23rd October 1802.*

Be it represented, that nearly ten thousand of Sindhia's troops arrived at the *kasba* of Beerpoor, and that four thousand of them, being Beydrahs, devastated the districts of Matree, and plundered Anantgaon, Jolah, Mohrut Golegaon and other principal villages to the number of twenty, the annual collections of which amount to nearly a lakh of rupees; they seized the property, cattle, money, goods, and other articles belonging to the inhabitants, have destroyed the villages, and caused a loss to the Sarkar of about two lakhs of rupees. The inhabitants of those and other villages of the district have fled; insurmountable difficulties have in consequence occurred in the collection of the revenue, and no hopes can be entertained of success in the future *jamma-bandis*.

At this time Gopal Rao Bakhshi, a dependant on Sindhia, has halted with a force of twenty-five thousand men at the village of Darulgaon, and ten thousand of his Beydrahs have reached the boundary of the district of Matree, where they commit the most licentious excesses, and have so terrified the inhabitants, that they have neglected the preparations for the next crop of *rabbi*. Notwithstanding the presence of a party of the troops of Sarkar in the taluka, twenty principal villages have been already plundered, and the forces of Sindhia are daily augmenting and devastating the country. Your slave has not any troops, with which he might oppose them, and protect the district, and unless restitution of the property, cattle and plundered goods of the ryots be obtained, there appears no likelihood of appeasing the fears of the inhabitants, and restoring the population of the country. On this subject your slave is without resources, but I am hopeful, that a party of the troops of the Sarkar may shortly arrive here, punish those intruders, and effect a proper arrangement. This will be a source of consolation to the ryots.

To say more, would be exceeding the bounds of respect. I have represented what was proper.

**No. 71**—The Governor General remonstrates with Sindhia against the depredations committed by his forces on the territories of the Nizam, asks him to withdraw the raiding troops, and points out that the Nizam is justly entitled to reparation for the extensive loss and injury thus caused.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 14th November 1802.*

The intimate connection and alliance between the state of His Highness the Nizam and the honourable Company, have identified the concerns

of both States, and have imposed on each the mutual obligation of protecting and securing their respective rights and interests against every attempt which may be made to injure or invade them.

Under these circumstances, it becomes the duty of this government to unite with His Highness the Nizam in representing to you the unwarrantable conduct of your military commanders on the western frontier of His Highness's dominions. Regardless of the friendship subsisting between you and His Highness, your officers have suffered your troops to invade the district of Aurangabad, and to commit depredations in that district to the serious injury of the revenues of His Highness, and to the disturbance and misery of the country.

You must be sensible that these proceedings are inconsistent with the amicable connection which exists between you, His Highness the Nizam and the British Government, and that it is incumbent on you, with a view to preserve that amicable connection and to maintain the reputation of your justice and good faith, to issue immediate orders for the removal of your troops from His Highness's territories, and to adopt effectual measures for restraining the unjustifiable proceedings of your officers.

You must be aware also, that His Highness the Nizam is justly entitled to reparation for the extensive loss and injury which His Highness has sustained by the depredations which your troops have committed during a long period of time within His Highness's territory.

The Resident at Hyderabad will receive my directions to communicate to you any sentiments on these points in detail, through the channel of your wakil at that place, and I confidently trust, that you will not disappoint the just expectations which His Highness the Nizam and the British Government entertain from your friendship and regard to justice ; and that the result of this friendly remonstrance, combined with the representations of His Highness the Nizam, will obviate further complaints, and preclude the necessity of adopting any other measures for the security of the rights and interests of His Highness the Nizam.

**No. 72**—Kirkpatrick is informed of the steps taken by the Governor General in respect of the incursion of Sindhia's army into the territories of the Nizam, and is instructed that if the same fail to produce any effect forces should be sent to drive the raiding troops out of the territories of the Nizam.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVT.

TO—MAJOR J. A. KIRKPATRICK, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

*Fort William, 14th November 1802.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General-in-Council to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches noted in the

margin, communicating accounts of the depredations committed by the troops of Daulat Rao Sindhia, on the western frontier of His Highness the Nizam's dominions.

His Excellency-in-Council approves the terms of your reply to the communications of the minister on that subject, under date the 18th ultimo. His Excellency-in-Council also approves of the remonstrance to the vakil of Daulat Rao Sindhia, as detailed in your dispatch, No. 196.

In conformity to the intimation communicated to the court of Hyderabad, in your letter to the minister of the 18th ultimo, and in support of the representations which you made to Sindhia's vakil, His Excellency the most noble the Governor General has deemed it expedient to address a letter of remonstrance to Daulat Rao Sindhia, requiring him to issue immediate orders for withdrawing his troops from the Nizam's territory, and stating to him the claim of His Excellency the Nizam to reparation for the losses and injuries which he has sustained by the irruption of that Chieftain's troops into His Highness's territory. The original of that letter will be forwarded by this day's post, through the Resident with Daulat Rao Sindhia, and a duplicate will be transmitted to you, with his dispatch, from the Persian Department, for the purpose of being delivered to Sindhia's vakil at Hyderabad, or of being forwarded to that Chieftain by any other channel which may appear to you to be more eligible.

His Excellency-in-Council directs, that you will send for the vakil, and that you will repeat your former remonstrances, in the name of the Governor General, adding that consistently with obligation of the engagements subsisting between the Honourable Company and His Highness the Nizam, the British Government will not be justified in refusing to His Highness the Nizam the aid of its troops, for the protection of His Highness's country against the depredations to which it has so long been exposed, by the unwarrantable aggression of the troops of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and that His Excellency the Governor General earnestly hopes, that by an immediate compliance with the just requisitions of the British Government, and His Highness the Nizam, Daulat Rao Sindhia will prevent the necessity of adopting a measure which His Excellency's solicitude to maintain the harmony and good understanding subsisting between the British Government and Sindhia renders him anxious to avoid.

You will likewise state to the vakil, in the name of the Governor General, the probability that reparation may be expected for the injuries and losses already sustained by the predatory incursions of Sindhia's troops.

His Excellency-in-Council further directs, that you will communicate to the court of Hyderabad the substance of these instructions, and the

contents of His Excellency's letter to Daulat Rao Sindhia (a copy of which will be transmitted to you).

If the remonstrance to Daulat Rao Sindhia should fail to produce immediate effect, His Excellency-in-Council authorizes you to direct a detachment from the subsidiary forces to co-operate with the troops of His Highness the Nizam, for the expulsion of Sindhia's troops from His Highness's territories. In that event, however, positive injunction must be given to the officer in command of the British detachment, not to advance beyond the limits of His Highness's territory; and you will urge His Highness the Nizam to issue similar orders to the principal commander of his own forces.

**No. 73**—The news-letter gives the details of the daily doings of Sindhia and at his camp for November 12 and 13, and notes other news received at his court.

*Translation of a Persian Akhbar from Ujjain, dated the 15th of Rajab, 1217 Hijari, or the 12th November; and received at Bombay on the 27th November 1802.*

Having arose, intelligence was received that Raghoji Bhonsla from the persuasion of Holkar, and knowing Baji Rao had fled from Poona, was making preparations for repairing to Poona; and that nothing had been adjusted by Jaswant Rao's man, who was daily negotiating.

Kishna Rao, Kawal Munshi's son, came and paid his respects, and made an offering of five rupees; a *khilat* of three and a half pieces was presented.

Jadu Rao, Anna Bhaskar, Vitthal Pant *mutasaddis* attended, and by their advice a *khilat* of four pieces was presented to Raja Mohammad, accompanied by a *sirpech*, a pearl necklace, and gold bracelets; and a similar present was also given to the *darogha* of artillery; Jadu Rao presented one year's accounts for the Ujjain taluka, and presented the *jagirdars* awaiting a renewal of their *jagirs*; Karim Beg, son of Rahim Beg, and Hussain Khan, the son of Rana Khan, represented that for three years past they had not received any thing from their *jagirs*; and therefore, whoever the Sarkar wishes to give them to, they were at liberty to dispose of them to.

Another letter was written and sent to Perron Sahib, saying, his attendance on the Presence was absolutely indispensable; and also to bring several thousand bullock loads of shot, powder, and other artillery

stores with him. Jadu Rao and Anna Bhaskar then took their leave. Maharaja, having taken his repast, bathed, and performed his devotions, retired to rest, and about evening made his appearance, and went out a-riding, and amused himself in observing an elephant attack a camel. He afterwards went a-hunting, and fired at a deer, which he wounded, and which fell; and ordering four horsemen to remain behind, he returned home, and arrived there after four *gharis* of the night. Sharzaji Rao and others were attending; about one *pahar* of the night he retired to rest.

16th Rajab, or the 13th November.—Having awoke this morning, he made his appearance; Sharzaji Rao came and requested Maharaja would favour him with his company to an entertainment to be given at Rana Bag; orders were given for the retinue to be in readiness to go to Rana Bag; he then retired to the baths, and having performed his devotions, heard intelligence that Jaswant Rao Holkar had made a requisition for three lakhs of rupees from the Peshwa's ministers for the payment of his own troops, and of Holkar's tent being pitched at a village in the vicinity of Poona, called Wanori.

Munshi Gulab Ali Ashnas Khan and the other sardars who fled from Poona, and had collected and taken refuge in the environs of Ahmadnagar, wrote a petition, which was this day received, setting forth that they had exerted themselves to the utmost; but that as victory was not in their power, but in the hands of the Almighty, what more could be done; that near two thousand regulars and five thousand others were collected; that the *kiledar* of Ahmadnagar, as far as was in his power, had given them every assistance; but that nothing could be effected without Maharaja's personal interference. A satisfactory reply was immediately ordered to be written, giving assurances of assistance, and money for the payment of the troops being transmitted, and desiring them immediately to form a junction with Gopal Bhau, at Burhanpur.

Letters from Naggu Pant and Jahan Khan, were received, representing the orders from the Presence having arrived, directing their attendance; and saying, that whatever adjustments had taken place at Boswarra[?], in a week's time they would repair to the Presence with them.

Maharaja's wife went to Sharzaji Rao's tent at Rana Khan's garden to the entertainment.

*Mutsaddi* represented, that if the *Fadnavisi* of Hindustan was given to Bappu Fadnavis, he would pay a lakh of rupees for it.

Vitthal Bhat requested his name might be inserted for Ujjain, for which he would give a *lakh* of rupees in advance, and another *lakh* for the *Fadnavisi*; nothing however, was settled.

Maharaja went out a-hunting, and continued at the sport till evening, and coming home about the fourth hour of the night, and discharging his attendance, he retired to his apartment, and went to rest.

**No. 74**—Collins is supplied with a copy of the Governor General's instructions to Close, and is asked to act in concert with Close so as to assure Sindhia's co-operation in the restoration of the Peshwa by the English. He is further instructed to try to obtain Sindhia's consent to the terms of a defensive alliance between that Chief and the English either exactly similar to or even slightly different from the terms accepted by the Peshwa.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 29th November 1802.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, to transmit to you for your information and guidance, the inclosed copy of His Excellency's instructions to the Resident at Poona, of this date.

You will observe by the 9th and 10th paragraphs of those instructions, that it is His Excellency's object to obtain the co-operation and concert of Sindhia in the measure to be adopted for the re-establishment of the Peshwa's authority, and to combine with the negotiations for those purposes the intended proposal to Sindhia, of admitting him to the benefit of the defensive alliance on terms similar to those which may be concluded with the Peshwa.

His Excellency accordingly directs, that you will be prepared to open a negotiation with Daulat Rao Sindhia for these purposes, at the period of time and under the circumstances indicated by the tenor of His Excellency's inclosed instructions to the Resident at Poona.

The instructions with which you were furnished in the month of January 1802, together with those which have been addressed to the Resident at Poona, contain so ample a detail of His Excellency's views and sentiments with respect to the establishment of a system of general defensive alliance with the Maratha States, that no further information can be requisite on that subject. It only remains that you should apply those views and sentiments to the actual crisis of affairs.

You will be guided with respect to the time of opening a negotiation with Daulat Rao Sindhia, for the purposes described in the 2nd paragraph of this letter, by the information and suggestions which you may receive from Colonel Close, with whose proceedings it is necessary that your own should coincide.

With this view, Colonel Close is directed to keep you regularly informed of his proceedings, and to transmit to you at the earliest practicable period of time, a copy of the engagement which he may conclude with the Peshwa, under His Excellency's instructions.

You will accompany the notification to Sindhia of the conclusion of those engagements, with a proposal to him to act in concert with the British Government for the re-establishment of the Peshwa's authority, and to enter into similar engagements with the British Government, provided that this course of proceedings should be conformable to the information and suggestion which you may receive from Colonel Close, who, you will observe by the 13th paragraph of the inclosed instructions, is vested with a discretionary authority to deviate from the strict letter of those instructions under the concurrence of contingent events.

Sindhia may probably maintain, that under the relation in which he stands to the Peshwa, and that which he holds with respect both to the Peshwa and to the British Government as guarantee to the Treaty of Salbai, he ought to have been consulted previously to the conclusion of any engagements with the Peshwa, and that his confirmation is necessary to their validity. To which it may be observed, that to render the Peshwa responsible to Sindhia for the acts of his administration, as the acknowledged executive head of the Maratha State, would be to reverse the relation which subsists between them. That the Peshwa must be considered at liberty to contract what engagements he may think proper independently of the will of any of the inferior members of the Maratha State. That in his capacity of guarantee to the Treaty of Salbai, Sindhia is merely authorized to bring to a right understanding either of the parties to that treaty which shall deviate from its stipulations; that in that capacity he cannot be considered to possess an authority to prevent the contracting parties from concluding any additional engagements, or from abrogating the stipulations of the Treaty of Salbai by mutual consent; and that at all events, his interests and his station, as a member of the Maratha State, are sufficiently considered by the offer of admitting him to be a party in the defensive treaty with the Peshwa, or of concluding separate engagements between him and the British Government on the basis of that treaty.

His Excellency, however, is aware, that it may not be practicable to obtain Sindhia's consent to the same terms of alliance as those which may be concluded with the Peshwa, or to any terms which shall render Sindhia a party in the treaty. His Excellency, therefore, authorizes you eventually to relax in your proposals according to the tenor of the instructions with which you have already been furnished; provided, however, that such relaxation be consistent with the engagements which may have been previously concluded with the Peshwa. At the same time you will not neglect to impress upon Sindhia's mind the disadvantages of his seclusion from the benefit of the general defensive alliance; to contrast his condition under a separation of his interests and connections from those of the Peshwa, with the security which he will derive from becoming a party to the engagement, under all its stipulations.

From the tenor of these instructions, and of those addressed to Colonel Close, you will perceive the necessity of keeping Colonel Close regularly informed of your progress towards the camp of Sindhia, and of your means of communication with that Chieftain.

**No. 75**—Sindhia informs the Governor General that he is proceeding to the Deccan to set right all the disturbances in that part of the Maratha Empire, asks that the English officers in the Deccan be instructed to act towards him in a manner becoming his friendship with the English, and hopes that the English will not act in any way towards the Peshwa without his concurrence.

**FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Received on 13th December 1802.*

Your Lordship will certainly have heard, by the papers of intelligence, of the misconduct of Jaswant Rao Holkar and of the events at Poona. Immediately on being apprized thereof, I again marched from Ujain, towards the Deccan, with the intention of proceeding thither for the purpose of quelling the disturbances, and of arranging the disordered affairs of that quarter. As the union subsisting between the two governments has rendered it an established practice between them to write information of the state of affairs, I have written the foregoing circumstances with the pen of friendship for Your Lordship's information.

My kind friend, having now occasion to return to Deccan, and the limits of the territories of the two states being everywhere contiguous, I request, in the spirit of union, that strict injunctions may be written to the respective public officers stationed at the several places belonging to the Company, requiring them constantly to keep in view a regard to the union of the two states. And whereas no distinction whatever subsists between the government of His Highness the Peshwa, and that of the Company, and I am the guarantee thereof, please God, it is certain, that Your Lordship, who holds the supreme authority over the affairs of the Company, who is distinguished for wisdom and foresight, and who is singular in this age in the observance of the dues of friendship, will on every occasion render the corroboration of the foundations of attachment and union and the maintenance of the obligations of friendship and regard with respect to His Highness the Peshwa on the part of the Company as heretofore, and conformably to existing engagements, in concert and concurrence with me, the objects of your attention, and give those objects place in your friendly mind.



**No. 76**—Collins informs the Governor General that he hopes to start for the Court of Sindhia within a couple of days, and adds that Jaswant Rao Holkar has asked Sindhia to stop Baji Rao from entering into any engagement with the British.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 19th December 1802.*

I have the honour to forward three *kharitahs* to the address of Your Excellency from Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, Kashi Rao Holkar, and Raja Zalim Singh.

Sindhia is at present encamped midway between Ujjain and the Narbada. Ambaji Rao has joined the Maharaja, as also the Bais, both which events have caused general satisfaction at Sindhia's Durbar. Ambaji Rao has reinforced the army of his Prince with thirteen hundred cavalry, seven thousand infantry, regulars, and thirty-two guns. This force is under the command of twelve European officers, mostly English, I understand.

Jaswant Rao Holkar has written to Ambaji soliciting his mediation in negotiating peace between him and Sindhia, observing at the same time, that a continuance of the present war must eventually prove destructive to the Maratha Empire. Holkar has likewise apprized Sindhia, that the Peshwa is pursuing measures of a ruinous tendency, meaning, I apprehend, Baji Rao's application for the aid of a military force from the British Government, and strongly urges the Maharaja to dissuade the Peshwa from entering into any engagements which may be adverse to those principles by which the ascendancy of the Maratha State has been so long maintained in the Deccan.

I have been detained here some days, waiting the arrival of two companies of sepoy, and two guns, etc., which were ordered from Cawnpore to complete my escort, but did not reach Fatehgarh until this morning; tomorrow there will be a survey taken of the cattle, ammunition, and stores, and on the following day I trust I shall commence my march towards the Court of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

Captain Robert Campbell being reported sick, His Excellency the Commander in Chief has been pleased, at my request, to nominate Captain Daniel Lyons to the charge of my escort.

**No. 77**—The Governor General greatly appreciates the sentiments of friendship expressed by Sindhia and goes on to add that Collins was being instructed to immediately join Sindhia to communicate with him on various important matters connected with the affairs in the Deccan.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,  
TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 14th January 1803.*

I have had the pleasure to receive your friendly letter ; (recapitulating that received 13th December).

The intelligence of the events which have lately taken place at Poona has afforded me great concern.

It has always been the object of my attention and solicitude to cement and improve the relations of amity and alliance which have so long subsisted between His Highness the Peshwa and you and the British Government, and it is my desire and intention to observe the same line of conduct on every occasion. I am satisfied that you entertain corresponding sentiments of friendship and attachment towards the British Government. You may be assured, therefore, that no measures will be adopted by the officers of this government incompatible with the obligations of reciprocal attachment. In conformity to your suggestion, I have already directed Colonel Collins to proceed to join you with the least practicable delay, for the express purpose of concerting with you the most effectual means of restoring and securing tranquillity in the Deccan, and of communicating with you on various points connected with the interests of the two states. Colonel Close, the Resident at Poona, has also been authorized to communicate with you on public affairs, if the state of circumstances should render it expedient, previously to the arrival of Colonel Collins in your camp.

**No. 78**—Close gives full details of the affairs of the Holkar's house since the death of Tukoji, including the part played by Sindhia in the same, and suggests to Malcolm reasonable terms for a settlement of the whole problem.

FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,  
TO—JOHN MALCOLM AT CALCUTTA.

*Bassein, 23rd January 1803.*

I was happy to hear of your safe arrival at Calcutta. Webbe wrote me a long letter after you separated from him at Madras and told me that he had sent you a copy of it. The Marquess' spirited instructions

of the 30th ultimo are in consonance with the result of your deliberations with our common friend, and I trust that so much judgment and vigor at the head of our Indian Empire, at so interesting a conjuncture, will succeed in completing the great object in view, and lay the foundation of permanent tranquillity and solid advantage, as well to the Company as to their allies. Mr. Duncan will have given you early intimation of the adjustment of matters at Baroda. Kanhoji, it is true, is still on foot, but whether, under the success above noticed and the course that things have taken here, the whole of the force in Gujrat should be left there, will be for His Excellency's consideration.

Holkar's difficulties necessarily increase with the course of time, and although Ambaji Ingle continues to correspond with him, it is not probable that there will soon be any decided result from this intercourse. Independent of all enmity and passion Holkar has habituated himself to extravagance and his demands are enormous, besides if Sindhia is not resolved to break with us, he must see that delay in accommodating with Holkar must give him great advantages. His Excellency's plan of policy being to bring about at least a general accommodation, I have naturally turned my mind to consider what outline for a general adjustment could with justice be proposed by the British Government.

The history of Tukoji Holkar in so far as it connects with the present differences, is probably well known to you. I understand it to be that Kashi Rao, being born in wedlock, was about 3 years old when his father was adopted by Ahilya Bai, and thus established as head of the Holkar Family, that shortly after the adoption, Tukoji married a second wife, by whom he had Malhar Rao Holkar; that previous to Tukoji's death he established Kashi Rao as his heir procuring for him the *khilat* from the present Peshwa, that shortly after Tukoji's death a rivalry arose between Kashi Rao and Malhar Rao,—the latter asserting that though younger than Kashi Rao, he had the right to inherit from being the first legitimately born after the adoption, that under these clashing pretensions, Kashi Rao reserved himself for help to Sindhia, who accordingly cut off Malhar Rao by surprise, made prisoner his son Khande Rao Holkar, and established Kashi Rao in the inheritance. What degree of countenance was given to this transaction by the Peshwa, I believe, is not generally known. Kashi Rao, however, made large cessions of territory to Sindhia for his aid, and it is observable that the Peshwa also at the same time got possession of some of Kashi Rao's districts in Khandesh which were afterwards taken from him by Jaswant Rao Holkar. What portion of this hereditary possession is at present held by Kashi Rao Holkar I do not know. His capital, I believe, is Maheshwar, and the lands he still holds are probably extensive, as he has now a large corps in the field. Tukoji left two illegitimate children Jaswant Rao Holkar and Vithoji Holkar who seemed to have sided with Malhar Rao Holkar. After the death

of the latter hostilities arose between Jaswant Rao Holkar on one side and Sindhia and Kashi Rao Holkar on the other, and Vithoji Holkar having assembled some companions began to subsist himself and party in the territory of the Peshwa, who in the end, seized him and put him to death as a common freebooter. The hostile operations which have lasted so long between Sindhia and Jaswant Rao Holkar are sufficiently known. The latter finding it difficult to hold his ground north of the Narbada, took a southern direction and passing Burhanpur took up his residence at Chandore from which he dispersed his troops and laid waste the Poona territory from the Tapti to the Krishna. He at the same time secretly communicated with Amrit Rao and intrigued with the remaining adherents of Nana Phadnavis for putting Amrit Row in power. He also communicated with the Peshwa whom he charged with having put his brother to death, and of whom he likewise sought redress against Sindhia. The Peshwa outwardly kept measures with him, but secretly called in the help of Sindhia, who supported him with the troops under Sadashiv Bhau which brought affairs to a crisis.

Jaswant Rao Holkar, though successful in the field, failed to seize the Peshwa, and has further failed to effect a revolution by establishing as Peshwa Amrit Rao's son.

Jaswant Rao Holkar is still at war with Sindhia and continues to seek redress of that Chieftain through the Peshwa and his demands have been lately transmitted to the Governor General.

In a review of past transactions it will appear that Kashi Rao Holkar was hasty and criminal in drawing so sudden a death upon his brother, and that Sindhia could not be justified in destroying by surprise Malhar Rao Holkar, and that his violent and perfidious conduct in this respect was sufficient to excite the resentment and hostility of Jaswant Rao Holkar, and that Sindhia should now make reparation to the family for so great an injury.

With the view, then, of rectifying the present, laying the basis of future agreement as well between Sindhia and Holkar as between the latter and the Peshwa it is proposed :—

*1st.* That Sindhia shall agree to the establishment of Kashi Rao Holkar in the possession of his hereditary lands and fortresses.

*2nd.* That Khande Rao Holkar shall be set at liberty.

*3rd.* That Kashi Rao Holkar shall agree that failing issue, he shall adopt Khande Rao as his heir and the head representative of the Holkar family.

*4th.* That meanwhile Kashi Rao shall grant to Khande Rao Holkar a suitable *jagir* for his maintenance.

*5th.* That Khande Rao being a minor, shall be committed to the care, and guardianship of such person as shall be judged fittest for such charge.

6th. That Kashi Rao shall grant to Jaswant Rao Holkar a *jagir* suitable to his character as a respectable branch of the family and a military Sardar under the Poona State, and further grant a small *jagir* to Vithoji Holkar, son of Holkar of that name, who was put to death by the Peshwa as a freebooter.

7th. This arrangement to be guaranteed by the British Government.

You will perceive that an arrangement like the above would be far from meeting the demands of Jaswant Rao Holkar, while it would probably be very unpalatable to Sindhia and even to the Peshwa. But on His Excellency's plan, some arrangement must be proposed for a general adjustment, the foregoing articles may be worthy of your notice.

**No. 79**—Collins is asked to offer to Sindhia a defensive engagement with the English and to check his endeavours to separate the Peshwa from the English. Arguments to meet Sindhia's objections regarding the Treaty of Bassein are also suggested.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA,

TO—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Calcutta, 11th February 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to transmit to you for your information and guidance the enclosed copy of His Excellency's instructions to the Resident at Poona of this date and to communicate to you the following observations and instructions.

Daulat Rao Sindhia's acceptance of the proposals which you have been directed to offer to him on the subject of concluding defensive engagements with the English Government, will necessarily include that Chieftain's consent to our arbitration of the differences subsisting between him and Jaswant Rao Holkar. In the event, however, of Sindhia's rejection of those propositions it is possible that he may still be disposed to accept the mediation of the British Government with respect to that particular point and in any event His Excellency deems it proper that you should distinctly offer that proposal to Sindhia's acceptance.

If Sindhia should resolve to reject His Excellency's propositions of alliance, it is possible that Sindhia may endeavour to separate the Peshwa from his connection with the English Government and to induce His Highness to rely upon Sindhia's exertions for His Highness's restoration to the *masnad* of Poona.

His Excellency directs that on being apprized of the adoption of any measures for that purpose on the part of Sindhia, you will remonstrate

with that Chieftain on the impropriety of his endeavouring to obstruct the completion of the arrangements concluded between the Peshwa and the British Government. Sindhia may attempt to contend that in his capacity of guarantee to the Treaty of Salbai he ought to have been consulted previously to the conclusion of any engagements of the nature of those lately contracted with the Peshwa. His Excellency, however, cannot admit the validity of any such argument. The duty of a guarantee to a treaty cannot be considered to extend to the obligation of precluding any change in the terms of such treaty or even its entire abrogation, provided the contracting parties have agreed by mutual consent, to vary or to annul it. You will accordingly refuse, in the most direct terms, to admit the assumption of any such right on the part of Sindhia, observing at the same time, that due attention has been manifested by the British Government to the relation in which he stands towards the Peshwa, and to the obligations of amity, by offering to admit him to the benefits of the defensive alliance concluded with the Peshwa.

I am further directed to intimate to you that His Excellency is desirous of receiving from you such information with regard to the nature, extent, and foundation of Jaswant Rao Holkar's claims on Daulat Rao Sindhia, as may enable His Excellency to form a correct judgment of the concessions which consistently with the principles of equity, Sindhia might be solicited to grant to Holkar. His Excellency also desires that you will ascertain correctly, and report the extent and description of the territory in Hindustan which constitutes the jagir of Jaswant Rao Holkar.

**No. 80—**Collins hopes to prevail upon Sindhia to see that his officers do not give any aid or support to Kanhoji Gaikwad, the rebel, or his adherents causing depredations in the territories of the Gaikwad.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.**

*Camp near Moondy, 22nd February 1803.*

I had the honour to receive your letter under date the 12th instant, yesterday evening.

As Daulat Rao Sindhia has acknowledged to me that he considers himself bound, as guarantee to the Treaty of Salbai, to support the subsisting administration of the Gaikwad State, I have no doubt of

prevailing on him to issue the most positive and explicit orders for the purpose of prohibiting his officers and subjects from affording countenance or support to Kanhoji or to any of his adherents.

I shall this day address a letter to the Maharaja on the subject of the depredations committed by Kanhoji in the Gaikwad territory, and after noticing the countenance which this rebel receives from the *kiledar* of Pawagarh as well as from Bapu Pawar and others, I shall earnestly request of Sindhia that he will immediately adopt effectual measures to prevent in future any of his subjects from affording the least aid or support whatever to Kanhoji, on the ground that conduct of this nature on the part of his officers is altogether incompatible with the relations of peace and amity which subsist between the British Government and his Sarkar.

Although I entertain strong hopes of being able to obtain the consent of Sindhia to allow of our troops to pursue the insurgents beyond the Gaikwad's border in the event of their seeking refuge within the territories of the Maharaja, yet, as a request to that purpose may give rise to discussions of a delicate tendency, I think it most expedient to defer entering upon this subject until I have a personal interview with Sindhia, which I expect will take place in five or six days from this date. In the mean time I shall forward a copy of this letter to Major Walker, the British Resident at Baroda, and will not fail to give him the earliest information of the result of my present representation to Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 81**—Duncan informs Collins of the support and help Kanhoji Gaikwad was receiving from the officers of Sindhia so that Collins might take Sindhia's explicit orders against any such acts of his officers.

**FROM—J. DUNCAN, THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Bombay, 12th February 1803.*

You will, no doubt, have been advised by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General-in-Council, of the decided part adopted by the British Government in India, in favour of the subsisting administration of the Gaikwad State ; which, now that the Arabs have been overcome, would be in the enjoyment of internal tranquillity, were it not for the predatory warfare carrying on chiefly towards its eastern

frontier by Kanhoji, one of the sons of the late Raja Govind Rao, who, from his mother being a Rajpoot, is according to the customs of the Gaikwad family incompetent to succeed, in any case, to the government; whilst the culpability of his present rebellion against his elder brother Anand Rao is enhanced by his rejection of the reasonable offers that have been made to him by the British Government, of a provision adequate to his support.

Kanhoji could not probably long continue his hostility were it not for the aid he experiences from the country of our ally, Daulat Rao Sindhia, and the countenance of the *kiledars* of Pavagarh, Champāner, and others, including, more especially Bapu Pawar, a person, who was a few days ago, employed by Sindhia on *mulkgiri* in the same quarter, with ultimate orders to penetrate into the Gaikwad's country to compel Raoji Appaji, the Dewan of Anand Rao, to pay 5 lakhs of rupees, with interest on account of an assignment which the Peshwa had given on the Gaikwad State; and when rather than afford any plea to Sindhia for disturbing the Gaikwad's country, the British Government postponed its just claim to the repayment of money actually laid out in the defence of that state, as the only means left for enabling Raoji Appaji to satisfy Sindhia, from whom, it is now a return scarcely to be expected; that he should foment, or allow his officers on the borders, to encourage those who are actively concerned in open hostilities against this same Dewan's administration which our government in India have, as already intimated, come under the most positive engagements to support.

Under these circumstances, I hope, Sir, it may be in your power to procure the most explicit orders from Daulat Rao Sindhia against any of his officers or people affording countenance, or support to Kanhoji or any of his adherents; and, if, in addition to this permission, Sindhia's assent can be procured to our pursuing these insurgents across the Gaikwad's border, whenever it may prove necessary, by their taking refuge in Sindhia's territory, such an acquiescence, for which there is a precedent in the case of Doondia Wag to the southward, would constitute the best proof of Sindhia's friendly intentions and ensure the requisite access for our putting an effectual stop to this disturbance; and, in that case, Sindhia's Government may rely, that the most positive restrictions shall be laid on our troops against the commission of the smallest injury to Sindhia's territory, as well as for their paying, for whatever provisions, they may require.

P.S.—By your corresponding on this subject by a direct route with Major Walker, the British Resident at Baroda, much time may be saved, and that gentleman has been instructed accordingly. I enclose the copy of a letter from this government to the Governor General under yesterday's date on this particular subject.



**No. 82**—Close informs Collins about the negotiations proceeding between Holkar and Ambaji Ingle, and adds that the Peshwa was most anxious not to displease Sindhia.

**FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Bassein, 26th February 1803.*

I am this moment honoured with your despatches of the 8th and 11th instant.

Ganpat Rai's intelligence to you that Sindhia has authorized Ambaji Ingle to conclude an accommodation between him and Holkar is so important that I shall wait anxiously to have the result of your first conference with Sindhia, from whose solicitude to see you I would draw a favourable inference. By a letter from a Brahmin correspondent of mine at Poona, dated 22nd instant, I learn that Holkar has lately received a despatch from Ambaji Ingle in which he observes that owing to a long and destructive warfare the Maratha territories both in Hindustan and in the Deccan have been brought into a state of desolation, that it is proper, therefore, to think of peace and that it is accordingly his (Ambaji's) intention to repair to the Godavari with an escort of five thousand horses, and that if Holkar is desirous of peace it is proper that he should also repair to the Godavari, that both parties meeting on the banks of that river should confer for the purpose of effecting an accommodation. My correspondent observes that he had not learned that Holkar had despatched any reply to the above proposal.

You will have seen from my public correspondence that in every instance where I have had occasion to advert to the demands of Holkar at this Durbar, the Peshwa has shown the utmost delicacy in regard to the rights and pretensions of Sindhia, and the strongest aversion to enter on any measure which might be displeasing to that Chieftain or tend to weaken the friendship and cordiality which His Highness is desirous to preserve with him.

I would hope that if Sindhia is really disposed to come to an accommodation with Holkar, the adjustment will be of a general extended kind, and thus include a provision by which the Peshwa will be enabled to return without opposition to Poona, enter on the full possession of his territories and the exercise of his authority agreeably to his just rights and pretensions.

**No. 83**—Collins informs the Governor General about the despatch of Vakils to Nagpur by Sindhia, the exact object of the mission being still unknown.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Ratgarh, 27th February 1803.*

I arrived very early this morning in the vicinity of the camp of Daulat Rao who has made no movement since I had the honour to address Your Excellency on the 23rd instant.

In reply to the letter that ..... my arrival at this ground the Maharaja with many compliments appointed the evening of day after tomorrow for our first interview, at the same time intimating an intention to meet me at some distance from his own encampment in order to conduct me to his tents. I understand that he is recovering from his late indisposition.

Yesterday Sindhia deputed Yadav Rao Bhaskar and Narain Rao (the latter is an old servant of the Peshwa) to the court of Raghuji Bhonsla. Ganpat Rai, who gave me the foregoing intelligence, has not as yet been able to discover the intent of this mission, the object of which I shall, however, use every endeavour to learn, since its importance cannot be doubted from the circumstance of Jadu Rao, Sindhia's confidential minister, being employed on the occasion.

I have the honour to forward a translate of Sindhia's answer to my intimation of the conclusion of defensive treaty between the British Government and the Peshwa, also a transcript of my reply to Jaswant Rao Holkar's letter, a translation of which formed a part of my despatch to Your Excellency under date the 20th instant.

**No. 83A—Enclosure.**

*Translation of Maharaja Sindhia's reply, dated 24th February 1803, to a letter from Collins.*

*24th February 1803.*

I understand what you have written to me of the conclusion of a ..... treaty between the Sarkar of Shrimant Peshwa Bahadur and that of the English Company Bahadur, and of what you propose, as also that you shortly expect to receive a copy of that treaty which you will accordingly communicate to me. Since you, however, will now

join me soon, and that we shall have frequent interviews, whatever discussions may be requisite for the increase and improvement of amity and friendship, and ..... and confirming former treaties will take place face to face.

**No. 84**—The Resident at Hyderabad acquaints Close with the claim preferred by the officers of Sindhia to the chauth of some districts within the territories of the Nizam, and puts down other news received in Hyderabad.

FROM—THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD,

TO—THE RESIDENT WITH THE PESHWA.

*Hyderabad, end of February 1803.*

It is to be premised that about a week ago, the Resident with the Peshwa received from Daulat Rao Sindhia a seemingly favourable answer to his (Colonel Close's) annunciation of the treaty concluded between the Honourable Company and the Peshwa, and expressing his approbation of the consequent intention in the English to advance a detachment of British troops into the Maratha territory.

Notwithstanding this, it now appears, that under date the 17th February, Sindhia has addressed an order of requisition to the officer in charge of the Nizam's western frontier, demanding the chauth of the districts of Bhir, Parenda, etc. which intimation is posterior to Sindhia's receipt of the Nizam's communication of the treaty between the English Government and the Peshwa, who can alone pretend to any chauth claim of the nature thus preferred; neither is it to be supposed that the Peshwa can, under present circumstances, have transferred this claim to Daulat Rao Sindhia, who is moreover in possession of a letter from the Governor General of the 14th of November, on the subject of the former depredations of his troops in the Aurangabad quarter, and cautioning him against a repetition of them to the prejudice of an ally, whose concerns, he has been repeatedly told, are identified with those of the honourable Company.

Raghuji Bhonsla, the Rajah of Berar, has recalled his vakils from the Durbar of Hyderabad, which is ascribed to their master's jealousy and dissatisfaction at the conclusion of the late treaty between the British Government and the Peshwa.

Holkar having sent for the news-writer of the Nizam at his Durbar, acquainted him that he must now pursue such steps as he deemed proper in view of the advance of Colonel Steyenson's detachment.

Intelligence has been received at Hyderabad that Sindhia has delivered over all Holkar's relations that had so long remained in his custody, to Ambaji Ingle who is negotiating a reconciliation between these two Chieftains.

The Nizam's news-writer at the Durbar of Sindhia has also advised that the latter had expressed his astonishment at the conclusion of the treaty between the British Government and His Highness the Peshwa, without his privity and concurrence.

**No. 85**—Collins points out that the slow progress of his negotiations with Sindhia was mainly due to the jealousy of Sindhia's ministers towards the English.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT WITH THE PESHWA.

*Camp near Sarola, 8th March 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th of last January and 26th ultimo. The former came by the way of Fatehgarh.

I am perfectly sensible that the greatest delicacy has in every instance been observed by His Highness the Peshwa in all points relating to the rights and pretensions of Daulat Rao Sindhia, nor shall I fail to endeavour to explain in the most forcible manner, whenever an opportunity offers, the friendly disposition which His Highness has on all occasions evinced towards the Maharaja.

But a perusal of the enclosed copy of my dispatch No. 230, to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General will satisfy you that this Durbar evidently wished to postpone entering upon business [with] me the reasons of which you will readily conceive.

Daulat Rao Sindhia returned his visit yesterday accompanied by a ..... party of his sardars. I have reason to believe that the Maharaja was very much pleased with the reception I gave him ..... he expressed as much and also showed ..... in his countenance. But, however well disposed this Prince may be towards the English Government, yet so jealous were his ministers of the power of the English

that I fear my negotiation will proceed but slowly until the Peshwa shall be actually replaced on the *masnad* of Poona by our troops. How far the accomplishment of this measure may be advisable or practicable under existing circumstances, you must be the most competent judge.

**No. 86**—Collins informs the Governor General that Jaswant Rao Holkar can possibly have no legal claim to the possessions of the Holkar family, and adds that most possibly Sindhia will meet him only after the result of the mission to Bhonsla is made known to him.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Sarola, 9th March 1803.*

Last night I received a despatch from Secretary Mr. Edmonstone under date the 11th instant transmitting for my information and guidance a copy of Your Excellency's instructions of the same date to the Resident at Poona, and likewise communicating additional instructions from Your Lordship for the eventual regulation of my conduct at this court under certain supposed cases, to all of which instructions I shall pay the strictest attention.

I shall also procure and forward as early as possible, the information which Your Lordship requires with regard to the nature, extent, and foundation of Jaswant Rao Holkar's claims on Daulat Rao Sindhia, as likewise of the extent and description of territory in Hindustan which constitutes the *jagir* of Jaswant Rao Holkar.

I am, however, sufficiently informed at present on this subject to authorize my assuring Your Excellency that Jaswant Rao has no legal claim to the territorial possessions of the Holkar family as he is the son of a slave girl, whereas Kashi Rao and the late Malhar Rao were the legitimate sons of the late Tukoji Holkar. Jaswant Rao, therefore, can have no claims on Sindhia excepting in his capacity of self-created guardian to Khande Rao, the posthumous child of Malhar Rao, who himself was only the second son of Tukoji, Kashi Rao Holkar being the eldest.

I have the honour to enclose copies in English and Persian of the reply of Ganpat Rai to my note of yesterday. In my opinion the contents denote a determination on the part of this Durbar to evade granting me a conference until the result of the mission to Berar be known. *Dak harkarabs* are stationed all the way between Burhanpur and Nagpur, eighty *kos* is the computed distance between these cities.

**No. 87**—In this letter the Governor-General is informed about the movements of Holkar and the terms of peace offered by him to Sindhia.

**FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Bassein, 6th March 1803.*

Yesterday I was honored with Your Lordship's commands by means of Secretary Mr. Edmonstone's dispatches of the 11th ultimo.

The Peshwa and his principal servants are at present engaged in the celebration of the Holi which will terminate tomorrow. After it closes I shall have the honour to present to His Highness the ratified copy of the Treaty of Bassein.

Not having been favored with any communication from the right hon'ble the Governor of Fort St. George of date subsequent to the receipt of Your Excellency's instructions to that Presidency of the 2nd ultimo, I propose to defer addressing Holkar for a time to the effect explained by Your Lordship. By this delay I shall have the advantage of ascertaining previously the degree of readiness and the movements of the Carnatic Army, the result of Col. Collins' first conference with Sindhia (which will probably afford some indication of the present disposition and views of that Chieftain), and also the principal objects of Baba Phadkia's mission which ere this, have probably been made known to the Resident at Hyderabad.

By various advices from Poona it appears that in consequence of letters which he had received from Ambaji Ingle, Holkar on the 1st instant despatched to Sindhia's Durbar, two *karkoons* called Vitthal Pant and Sham Rao, with a letter addressed to Ingle intimating that these persons were sent to him agreeably to his wish, to confer on the subject of peace and that his (Holkar's) demands for an accommodation with Sindhia were the same as had been formerly communicated, namely that Khande Rao Holkar with his adherents should be released, that he should be put in possession of the Holkar territories, that he (Jaswant Rao Holkar) should fill the capacity of his Dewan with full authority, and that both Sarkars should act according to the rules of peace and good neighbourhood, and each avoid to trespass on the frontier of the other.

By letters of recent date from Europeans at Poona it appears that Amrit Rao has been very undetermined of late as to the line he should pursue under present appearances, a circumstance which seems to

be confirmed by the deputation which he lately sent to Bombay, the particulars of which will be conveyed to Your Lordship by the correspondence of that Presidency.

Holkar has moved to the distance of 6 or 8 *kos* from Poona on the road to Hyderabad and Ahmदनगर, and gives out that on the close of the Holi, he will proceed to Jejuri, and after paying his devotions there move on to the village of Siditake, distant about 30 *kos* from Poona. At this position he will be conveniently situated for watching the motions of Col. Stevenson, and be in ready communication with the several divisions of his army, which are levying contributions from the Southern Jagirdars. He has left a small corps at Poona, and placed the city in the charge of his confidential servant Harnath Singh, who by his direction continues to raise assessments on the inhabitants who remain, and dig the floors of the houses of those who have been able to effect their escape.

**No. 88**—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the details of his interview with Sindhia, and adds that possibly his ministers and not the Chief might oppose the English proposals.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Sarola, 12th March 1803.*

Motives of respect towards Your Excellency having induced Daulat Rao Sindhia to grant me a private audience yesterday evening instead of today as was originally intended, I accordingly waited on him at that time after partaking of the sports of the Holi festival to which, although it was an act of necessity I submitted with a good grace. Sindhia conducted me to a private tent, accompanied by Ambaji Rao, Anna Bhaskar, Vitthal Pant Sadashiv who has lately been restored to favor, Bappu Chitnavis, and Munshi Kavalnayan. Captain Paris Bradshaw, Mirza Bakar Khan and Ganpat Rai were present on my part.

After usual compliments, I introduced the conversation by observing that it would be needless to enter into the particulars of the late disturbances at Poona, the Maharaja being no doubt fully informed already on that subject. Nevertheless as the events which had occurred there were connected with the objects of my present mission, I thought

it proper to recall those events to his recollection. To this remark Sindhia gave an assenting bow.

I then proceeded to state that the outrages lately committed on the authority of His Highness the Peshwa had been the cause of much serious concern to Your Excellency as well on account of the friendship and connection which had long subsisted between the British and Poona Governments, as because those outrages had been perpetrated at a time when Col. Close the British Resident at the Court of Poona was on the point of contracting a treaty of general defensive alliance between the British Government and His Highness the Peshwa. That this treaty had since been concluded and Your Excellency having ratified the same, had in consequence adopted the necessary measures for restoring His Highness to the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona, not doubting but that these measures would meet with the entire approbation and strenuous support of the principal Maratha Chieftains, who could not be insensible of or indifferent to the indignity which the person and authority of the head of the Maratha Empire had lately sustained.

That Your Lordship adverting to the intimate connection and friendship subsisting between His Highness the Peshwa and the Maharaja, conceived that among the powerful members of the Maratha State, he (Sindhia) was mostly interested in the re-establishment of the authority of His Highness Baji Rao, which opinion had, indeed, been confirmed by the contents of the letter that the Maharaja addressed to Your Lordship a short time previous to his last departure from Ujjain. (Here again Sindhia bowed in token of assent.) Pursuing my discourse, I affirmed that Your Excellency, equally desirous with the Maharaja for the restoration of His Highness the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona and at the same time solicitous to prevent the effusion of blood, had deputed me to his court in order to submit to the Maharaja certain propositions which were particularly calculated for securing the latter object. I then with Sindhia's permission proceeded to give a distinct statement of the proposals I had to make on the part of Your Lordship, which I arranged in the following order.

1st. That conformably to the intimation contained in Your Excellency's letter to the Maharaja under date the 14th of last January, or 19th of last Ramzan, I was instructed to concert with him (Sindhia) the most effectual means of restoring and securing tranquillity in the Deccan.

2nd. That I was likewise authorised to propose to the Maharaja the mediation of the British Government for the purpose of effecting a reconciliation between him and Jaswant Rao Holkar.

Lastly, that Your Excellency, who had always been solicitous to concert and improve the relations of amity and alliance which have so long



subsisted between His Highness the Peshwa, Sindhia and the British Government, had further directed me to make an offer to the Maharaja of admitting him to the benefits of the general defensive alliance on terms similar to those recently concluded with His Highness the Peshwa. After making some obvious remarks on the friendly tendency of the foregoing propositions, I finished my discourse by requesting an early answer.

When I had done speaking a general silence ensued for some time, which afforded me an opportunity of asking the Maharaja whether he perfectly understood all that I had said, he instantly replied "every word". Munshi Kavalnayan gave me the same assurance, and Anna Bhaskar repeated, with much exactness, all the material points of my discourse to Ambaji Rao and to the other ministers who were present on this occasion.

The servants of the Maharaja then held a conversation in the Marathi language, the result of which was, as Anna Bhaskar apprized me, that I must allow them some time to consider on Your Excellency's propositions since they were of too important a nature to be decided on, but with due reflection. As this observation appeared to me reasonable, I made no attempt to controvert it. However, I did not omit remarking that as Your Lordship had deputed me here with the most friendly intentions towards this court, any unnecessary delay on the part of the Maharaja's ministers would be highly indecorous. This drew from Anna Bhaskar assurances of the good disposition of the Durbar to comply with my wishes, the sincerity of which I much doubted.

I would easily perceive that Sindhia was by no means displeased with the tenor of Your Lordship's proposals and as far as ..... [it depends] on him I should have little doubt of the success of my negotiation. Indeed the Maharaja cannot but know that by accepting the offers of Your Excellency he would at least be independent of the control of his own servants, which is not the case at present, since his poverty keeps him in subjection to those Sardars from whom he derives pecuniary aid. On the other hand, the ministers perceive that this Prince has a will of his own, and, therefore, are careful that this will shall have no effect.

On the 25th ultimo Jaswant Rao Holkar deputed two confidential persons, one of whom, Vithoji Ingle, is related to Ambaji Rao, to this Durbar in order to treat of peace. These men are expected to arrive here in a few days.

I have just been informed that the Maharaja has sent a person of the name of Aba to His Highness the Peshwa. There shall be no delay in attempting to discover the intent of this mission, since it has a very suspicious appearance in the present state of affairs.

**No. 89**—Close informs Collins about the embassy sent by the Peshwa to Sindhia and the special regard which the Peshwa has for Sindhia.

**FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Bassein, 17th March 1803.*

I have been honored with your dispatch of the 8th instant and now do myself the pleasure to enclose copy of my last address to His Excellency No. 76.

It has given me great concern to find that Balaji Kunjar halted so long at Broach. His orders from this Durbar required him to proceed with all expedition to the camp of Sindhia, and his slow progress has certainly made the Peshwa exceedingly uneasy. You will perceive that he reached Baroda some time since, and as he has been repeatedly enjoined of late to expedite his journey, I trust to hear soon of his having arrived at his destination.

At leaving this place he gave me the most positive assurances that he would co-operate with you in the most confidential manner and keep nothing in view but the benefit of both states under the present alliance.

That certain parts of the treaty may not be distinctly known to him is not improbable but the Peshwa's ministers assure me that his knowledge of it must be sufficient to enable him to give the Maharaja all satisfaction on the subject. He knows that the treaty is strictly defensive which point alone should do much towards divesting the Maharaja of the solicitude he expresses, and perhaps you may find it convenient to regulate your communication of the treaty to him by the degree of acquiescence he may afford to your propositions.

You will observe that the Peshwa is so scrupulously delicate in regard to the Maharaja's rights and so anxious to preserve his good-will and avoid giving him any cause of umbrage, as from such dispositions to hazard in a considerable degree the welfare of his own interests. He has sent me repeated messages of late expressing his confidence that on the arrival of Balaji Kunjar (who is accompanied by Jadu Rao's brother Nimaji Bhaskar) the Maharaja's mind will be put wholly at ease.

In his solicitude to preserve the friendship of the Maharaja, His Highness seems to be firmly persuaded that no accommodation can possibly take place between the Maharaja and Holkar, the distrust of these Chieftains in each other being such in his opinion as to form an insuperable bar to their union, and as Narain Rao Vaidya, who has proceeded with Jadu Rao Bhaskar to Nagpur coincided perfectly in the propriety of the Peshwa's having resorted to the British support. His

Highness trusts that the above embassy will terminate in nothing hurtful to his interests or favourable to those of Holkar.

I presume you receive regularly the Akhbars of Holkar's camp; messengers wait on him frequently from Ingle, but I do not learn through any channel that the negotiation on foot is at all advanced.

You will make the communication to Daulat Rao Sindhia which you may judge proper in consequence of the letter which I have addressed to Holkar as desired in His Excellency's instructions to me of the eleventh ultimo. I allude to the offer for an arbitration of differences between Sindhia and Holkar by the British Government.

I shall keep you acquainted with the movements of our troops. Major-General Wellesley I expect has ere this crossed the Maratha frontier especially as the Maratha Jagirdars and Sardars on the Krishna appear to be well attached to the Peshwa's interests.

**No. 90**—The Governor of Bombay is informed by this secret letter of the possibility of war breaking out with France. It is also suggested that in that eventuality there would be no need to increase the British military strength in India as France would be unable to send any considerable force to India.

**FROM—J. ROBERTS, J. BOSANQUET AND J. MANSHIP,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, BOMBAY.**

*East India House, London, 17th March 1803.*

We avail ourselves of the earliest occasion of informing you, that in consequence of preparations going forward in the ports of France and Holland, whilst discussions of an important nature are pending between the government of this country and that of France, His Majesty has thought fit to adopt precautionary measures for the security of his dominions. His Majesty has accordingly directed the necessary steps to be taken for augmenting his naval forces, and for calling out the militia of the United Kingdom.

You may rely on receiving from us the earliest intimation, both by sea and land, should the present discussions unfortunately terminate in hostilities. In the meantime, we have only to recommend general vigilance, but by no means feel ourselves warranted in either authorizing, or directing you, under present circumstances, to incur any extraordinary expense.

Should the war be renewed, we see no probability that France will be in a situation to direct her efforts against our Indian possessions. There is a small squadron in preparation at Brest destined, as it is said,

for the East Indies, but as the land forces to be embarked thereon, do not exceed 3,000 men, the renewal of hostilities would be more likely to deter such a force from proceeding to its destination, than operate as an encouragement to their despatch, and we have every reason to believe, that the French naval resources are at this moment, little competent to enable them to detach a force of any magnitude to that quarter.

We shall watch, narrowly, every circumstance passing in Europe, which can occasion the most remote jealousy for the safety of India, and shall keep you apprized of events; so as to admit fully, in point of time, of corresponding measures of precaution being taken on your part, should such measures become necessary. But, until some special danger shall appear to threaten our possessions abroad, with the ample military force now in the Company's service, we shall consider, the application of our surplus funds to the reduction of debt as amongst the most effectual means that can be had recourse to of strengthening India. We are happily in no immediate danger of being surprized, either by a native or an European enemy, and it will be our wisest policy to reserve our efforts and to husband our resources, unless an adequate occasion should occur to call them forth. Keeping this principle in view, we desire that you will be prepared, in the event of war, so to frame your measures as to add as little as may be, by the precautionary arrangements which such a state of affairs may call for, to your peace expenditure. We see no occasion, even under such an alternative, for augmenting, in any degree, our present military force. In its distribution and equipment we rely upon your discretion for combining a due attention to our financial interests, with what may be requisite to place and preserve our Indian army in a state of active and disposable efficiency.

**No. 91**—In this letter Collins is imparted the information received from Hyderabad, and some extracts of a letter from Kirkpatrick to the Governor-General are forwarded to him.

**FROM**—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

**TO**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Bassein, March 1803.*

I lose not a moment in forwarding the enclosed copy of a letter from Daulat Rao Sindhia to Sookhroodur Pandit and also a copy of one to the same person from Gopal Bhau, Sindhia's commander on the Tapti. Sookhroodar Pandit is an officer of rank in the service of the Nizam, and at present commands on His Highness's western frontier. The originals

of these letters were lately communicated by Azim-ul-Umrah to Major Kirkpatrick who immediately addressed His Excellency on the subject of them.

Baba Phadkia has lately arrived at Hyderabad as vakil to the court from the ruling party at Poona. He states it to be the wish of that party that the Nizam should assist them, either openly or secretly, and that they are willing to accede to the treaty lately settled between the Peshwa and the honorable Company provided the Peshwa shall return to Poona and that they (Holkar and Amrit Rao) shall be permitted to administer the affairs of the government.

By this time, I hope, you have received a copy of His Excellency's instructions to the Madras Government of the 2nd ultimo, and also of His Excellency's instructions to me dated 11th ultimo. Being still ignorant of the plan of movements which may have been determined on for the Carnatic army and of the views and dispositions which may have been shown by Sindhia in the course of his conference with you and adverting also \* \* \* \* \* [incomplete].

**No. 92**—Extract of a letter from the Resident at Hyderabad to the Governor General, dated 9th March 1803.

From Paragraph 11th.

The enclosure No. 11 is copy and translation of the note which Azim-ul-Umrah in conformity to my desire addressed to me declarative of the unfounded chauth claim advanced by Daulat Rao Sindhia on the districts of Bhir and Parenda.

Paragraph 12th.

It thus appearing that Sindhia's late demand on those districts, and threats of coercion if persisted, are unfounded and consequently unjust, I conceived myself bound by the tenor of Your Lordship's instructions of the 14th November last to assure the minister, as I accordingly did through my Munshi at his visit of yesterday, of the readiness of the subsidiary force in conjunction with His Highness's army to repel any aggression which Sindhia's commander might make on the Bhir or Parenda districts on plea of the chauth demands in question.

**No. 93**—Extract of Munshi Aziz-ullah's report of his conference with Azim-ul-umrah on the 5th March 1803.

I next observed to the minister in the words of your written memorandum that on perusing the letter from Daulat Rao Sindhia to Sookhroodar, which had been communicated to you by Anand Rao Sabhapati, you had directed me to enquire if Daulat Rao possessed in his own person a right or claim of any sort on the districts of Bhir and Parenda by which he could urge the present demand, and that when you should be adequately informed on this point, you should be able to offer such advice as suited the occasion. Azim-ul-Umrh replied that Daulat Rao did not possess any right or claim whatever on those districts, and this was the first instance of a similar demand for chaauth which Sindhia would appear to have made under the idea of possessing full powers on the part of the Peshwa. In consequence of which I requested that a note might be addressed to you on this subject stating how the case stood, which the minister promised me should be done accordingly.

**No. 94**—Translation of a Note from Azim-ul-Umrh to Munshi Aziz-ullah, received on 6th March 1803.

The letter from Daulat Rao Sindhia to the address of Raja Sookhroodar respecting the chaauth of the districts of Bhir, Parenda, etc. have been already sent to the Resident for his perusal. With those districts Daulat Rao Sindhia has not hitherto had any connection, and the present is the first instance of a similar demand.

**No. 95**—Translation through the medium of the Persian language of a Marathi letter from Jaswant Rao Holkar to Baba Fadkia, communicated to the Resident on 23rd March 1803.

*Dated 14th March [9 Ziqad], 1803.*

Be his fortune uninterrupted and propitious who is esteemed by princes. To Rajeshri Ramchander Pandit Baba Saheb, after expressions of respect be it known from his friend Jaswant Rao Holkar

that being acquainted with the welfare of this he should communicate the welfare of all in that quarter.

The requisite information has been derived from the several letters which you dispatched hither by the dak. You wrote that I should transmit to you the communications which had been received from His Highness the Nizam and from the minister of His Highness, and a memorandum of my own demands and of those of Shreemant (Amrit) Rao Sahib, that I should make you acquainted with any resolutions which I might have formed in order that you might conduct your negotiations in conformity thereto, and that I should particularly inform you of the nature of the answers which might be received to our letters from Sindhia and the Bhonsla.

Sir ! the connection between His Highness the Nizam and Shreemant has lasted during five generations ; in that connexion His Highness is the more noble of the two, and if, therefore, any difference should occur His Highness should accommodate them both by word and writing ; or should not this be practicable, he should sincerely exert his influence for between the two states there is no difference. Having entered into appropriate explanations with the several Chieftains and having reconciled them all, effected an arrangement of the government of Shreemant and united therewith His Highness should prevent foreign interference. Such are the acts which would be worthy of His Highness's parental kindness for in either state such an aspect of affairs as now exists, may occasionally happen ; and if His Highness relinquishing the brotherhood of a century acquiesce in a new fangled policy, the state of Shreemant also is powerful, its resources in men and in stores are double, nay even triple,\* the former amount. And let it not be imagined that we are disunited, for in the moment of necessity we will in one single day be all of one mind. Reflecting on this circumstance and on the ancient policy, having united with the state of Shreemant and reconciled our domestic differences let His Highness effect an arrangement. For in this there is much advantage.

In like manner as you have addressed Sindhia and Bhonsle, so also have we written and dispatched to them letters and a settlement will not prove difficult.

From Shreemant Rajeshri Baji Rao Sahib letters and agents have arrived and the latter have returned ; in consequence of which Shreemant, our parent, Tace Saheba (Baji Rao's consort) has been established at Poona. Having entrusted to her the conduct of affairs and obtained her permission I came to Jejuri and after performing religious ceremonies I shall proceed towards Chandor by the way of Gardoon.

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\* A way of hinting probably at the projected triple confederacy between himself, Sindhia and the Bhonsla.—K. R.

From Ambaji Ingle letters have been received recommending that I should send some person to form a connection with my friend (meaning probably Daulat Rao Sindhia) in consequence of which Vitthal Lakshman and Sham Rao Jiawaji have been deputed, and if according to the communication of Ingle, favourable accounts should be received, others also shall be sent; after our union no difficulty will remain in confederating all, great and small, and if His Highness the Nizam adhere to his ancient policy, everything may be settled.

Having thus ascertained, therefore, the intentions of His Highness, you will set out on your return hither, and whatever may be determined in our mutual councils, that shall be carried into effect. But if His Highness adverting to his parental goodness continue steadfast in his ancient policy, numerous modes will be discovered for the removal of every difficulty, and if he be not steadfast, what signifieth it? Everything is in the state of Shreemant, and by the blessing of Providence, all will yet be well. Designing persons may with interested motives fabricate reports productive of difference, but on them no attention should be bestowed. Having ascertained, therefore, all matters at Hyderabad, you must return quickly.

What more need be written?

This is my representation.

**No. 96**—Lord Clive fully agrees with the Governor General in the appointments of Webbe and Malcolm as the Residents at Nagpur and Mysore respectively.

**FROM—LORD CLIVE, GOVERNOR OF MADRAS,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fort St. George, 22nd March 1803.*

I have had the honour to receive Your Excellency's dispatch of the 3rd instant, and, in conformity to Your Lordship's intention of employing Mr. Webbe at the court of the Raja of Berar, I shall enable that gentleman to obey Your Excellency's commands for his proceeding to Nagpur, by relieving him immediately of the duties on which he has been employed in the special commission instituted by me at this Presidency.

I concur entirely in the confidence which Your Excellency attaches to the employment of a political Resident at Mysore, and in the selection which Your Excellency has made of Major John Malcolm to fill that station at the present period of time.

Knowing the confidence reposed by Your Excellency in Major Malcolm, and that officer's extensive acquaintance of Your Excellency's sentiments



relative to the political interests of the British Government in the present crisis of Maratha affairs, I have judged it to be expedient to issue separate instructions to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Stuart and to Major Malcolm, with respect to the means of cultivating an intercourse with the Jagirdars in the southern parts of His Highness, the Peshwa's dominions ; of those instructions I do myself the honour of enclosing copies for Your Excellency's information, with copies of the letters which I have in consequence received from His Excellency the Commander-in-chief and from Major Malcolm, since the arrival of the latter at the encampment of the army.

**No. 97**—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the details of his interview with Sindhia ; he points out that his ministers did not let the Maharaja communicate anything definite, and adds that he was awaiting the arrival of Balaji Kunjar, the vakil of the Peshwa Baji Rao.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Sarola, 25th March 1803.*

Knowing from experience that the ministers of this Durbar would endeavour to evade giving me any kind of explanation, I proposed to Daulat Rao Sindhia, through Ganpat Rai, that the conference which had been agreed on, should be private between the Maharaja and me. Sindhia declared that he should have great pleasure in complying with my request ; but observed that as it was not customary to exclude his confidential ministers from any secret debates, they would probably take umbrage were this mode now adopted. At the same time, this Prince bade Ganpat Rai to assure me, I might rely on his opening his heart to me at the proposed interview.

Yesterday afternoon I waited on Daulat Rao Sindhia, and was immediately conducted to a private tent. The persons present on the part of Maharaja were Anna Bhaskar, Raja Ambaji Rao, Vitthal Pant, Bapu Chitnavis and Munshi Kavalnayan. I commenced the discourse by observing how highly gratified I was in having a personal conference with the Maharaja, since I expected to obtain from it a knowledge of his real sentiments with regard to the objects of my mission, and also an explanation of his intentions respecting the line of conduct which he had determined to adopt in the present critical situation of the Peshwa's affairs. I then proceeded to remark that Your Excellency had very naturally supposed that the propositions with which I was charged, being obviously of the most friendly tendency, could not fail to please the

Maharaja, in as much as they afforded the most convincing proofs of Your Lordship's solicitude to improve the existing amicable connection between our respective governments. Nevertheless, that from the replies delivered by Munshi Kavalnayan to those propositions, it seemed evident to me that this Durbar was by no means disposed to coincide in the humane views and friendly wishes of Your Excellency, since those replies were not only indecisive with respect to the objects of my mission, but had also been so expressed as to afford grounds for supposing that the Maharaja entertained designs incompatible with the relations of friendship subsisting between the Sarkars, and hence I was led to infer that this court was dissatisfied with the part which the English had taken in the late disturbances that had arisen in the Maratha Empire; and yet this dissatisfaction appeared to me unaccountable, as, in my judgment, the line of conduct pursued by the British Government on the occasion alluded to, tended to promote both the honour and the interest of the Maharaja: that, in support of this opinion, I must beg leave to give a concise statement of the actual situation of affairs in which His Highness the Peshwa contracted a defensive alliance with the British Government. At this time, I observed, Jaswant Rao Holkar had defeated the united forces of His Highness and of Daulat Rao Sindhia, had driven the Peshwa from his capital, and had taken possession thereof with the avowed design of placing the son of Amrit Rao on the *masnad* of Poona; that the life of His Highness Baji Rao was at this time exposed to imminent danger could not reasonably be denied, and that His Highness was shielded from this danger by the protection of the English troops was likewise indisputably true. I then appealed to the Maharaja, whether he could doubt that the declared intention of creating a new Peshwa had been defeated, and that the ambitious aim of Jaswant Rao Holkar to possess himself of the Naibship had been also frustrated by the military preparations of the British Government, consequent of the defensive alliance lately concluded with the Peshwa.

Pursuing my argument, I affirmed that had this meditated revolution been effected, the dignity and influence of the Maharaja must have suffered materially; and that his general interest would have been greatly injured by the elevation of his enemies to the supreme authority in the Maratha Empire, was a truth too apparent to be insisted on; and yet these consequences must necessarily have ensued but for the timely interposition of the British Government, since the Maharaja was at too great a distance from the scene of action to have rendered His Highness the Peshwa that assistance which the pressing exigencies of his situation so immediately required. Adverting, therefore, to the advantages actually derived by the Maharaja on the foregoing occasion, I said, I was altogether at a loss to account for the marked reserve and coldness with which Your Excellency's friendly proposals had been received at this court; and I concluded with

conjuring the Maharaja to disclose to me his real intentions, as well with respect to the offers I had made on the part of Your Lordship, as to the measures he was resolved to pursue, in consequence of the new engagements formed between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government.

Daulat Rao Sindhia was on the point of reply to my discourse when he was prevented by his ministers, several of whom began speaking at the same time. I can assure Your Excellency that had those gentlemen offered anything that deserved the name of argument, in opposition to my observations, I should most readily repeat the same to Your Lordship, since, certainly, I bear them no sort of illwill; but their remarks were trivial, and, for the most part, as little satisfactory as the words of the message which had been delivered to me by Munshi Kavalnayan. However, I was pleased to observe that they had relinquished their former assumption respecting the right of the Maharaja to be consulted in his capacity of guarantee to the Treaty of Salbai, previously to the conclusion of any new engagements between the British Government and His Highness the Peshwa. They, moreover, acknowledged that Your Excellency's late measures had been productive of great advantages to the Maharaja; but they obstinately contended that the Peshwa, who was indebted to Daulat Rao Sindhia for his elevation to the *masnad*, ought long since to have apprized the Maharaja of the terms of the treaty which he had entered into with the English.

In reply to this remark, I said that His Highness Baji Rao had deputed a confidential person to this court for the express purpose of explaining all particulars to the Maharaja; that this person had certainly been very tardy in performing the journey; but that delay was by no means ascribable to His Highness, who was equally desirous to make this communication as the Maharaja was to receive it. I then took occasion to assure Daulat Rao Sindhia that His Highness the Peshwa had invariably consulted the real interests of this government, and that in several recent instances he had evinced his friendship towards the Maharaja by rejecting certain overtures of his enemies calculated to lessen his dignity and authority in the Maratha State.

After expressing myself to the above effect, I reminded the ministers that they had introduced a subject quite foreign to my purpose, since all that I wished to know from them, was, whether the Maharaja felt inclined to accept of Your Lordship's friendly proposals, and to be apprized also of his (Sindhia's) intentions in relation to the late engagement between the Peshwa and the British Government. With regard to the propositions, I said, as they were offered to the acceptance of the Maharaja by Your Excellency, with a view to his (Sindhia's) own advantage, that the Maharaja might accede to, or reject them, according to his pleasure. But as Munshi Kavalnayan had left me in doubt respecting the amicable intentions of the Maharaja towards the British Government, I must insist

on a candid explanation of this important subject ; and that any further evasion of it on their part would confirm the justness of those doubts which that Munshi's intimation had impressed on my mind.

This open declaration occasioned the ministers to look towards the Maharaja, which afforded me a favourable opportunity of remarking to this Prince that I clearly perceived it was from his candour alone I had to expect the desired explanation.

Daulat Rao Sindhia made not the smallest hesitation in giving me the following answer.

That he had lately been informed that indisposition had caused the detention of Balaji Kunjar on the road. That this wakil was, however, now recovered, and on his way to this court. That he (the Maharaja) had sent a party of horse to escort Balaji Kunjar, whose arrival here was shortly expected, and that until he (Sindhia) had been informed of the particulars which this agent was instructed to communicate to him on the part of the Peshwa, he (Sindhia) could not give a decided answer to the propositions of Your Excellency. The Maharaja then declared that he had no intention whatever to obstruct the completion of the arrangements lately concluded between the Peshwa and the British Government, but on the contrary, that it was his wish to improve the friendship at present subsisting between the Peshwa, the British Government and his own Sarkar.

I thanked the Maharaja for his very candid and explicit reply, and at the same time requested his permission to repeat what he had said on this occasion, in order that I might be enabled to state the same to Your Lordship. Accordingly I did so, and at the conclusion the Maharaja said, " These words are my words, and you are authorised by me to write them to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General."

Daulat Rao Sindhia then asked me, whether I had received a copy of the engagements concluded at Bassein by Colonel Close ; and on my replying in the affirmative, he expressed a wish to be apprized of the particulars thereof. I said that if the Maharaja would enter into a discussion of the different articles of the treaty with me, for the purpose of becoming a member of the general defensive alliance, I should have great pleasure in making the communication he required. Here Anna Bhaskar interposed by observing that the Maharaja had already declared that he could come to no determination on this point until he had conversed with Balaji Kunjar. I replied, " If that be the case, any communication of the articles on my part would be premature."

Your Excellency will perceive that until the arrival of Balaji Kunjar at this court, I can make no progress towards the attainment of the objects of my mission ; however, this delay appears to me of little consequence, since I am firmly convinced that Sindhia's ministers will

prevent their master from engaging in the defensive alliance until such time as His Highness the Peshwa be restored to that authority which he ought to possess as head of the Maratha Empire, and until the restoration be effected by the means of those engagements which he has lately contracted with the British Government.

*P.S.*—I have omitted to mention to Your Excellency that when I was about to take leave of the Maharaja, he expressed his approbation of the openness of my conduct towards this Durbar in terms highly flattering. At the same time, he invited me to accompany him in his future hunting excursions.

**No. 98**—Collins mentions to Close the enquiries made by Sindhia's ministers about the negotiations between Holkar and the British.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Camp near Sarola, 26th March 1803.*

The ministers of this Durbar affirm that the demand made by Daulat Rao Sindhia on Sookhroodar Pandit for chaith on account of the districts of Bhir, Parenda, etc., was authorized by the general orders of His Highness the Peshwa to the Maharaja in his capacity of Naib to His Highness. They further affirm that those districts have paid chaith for a long period of time.

I have the honour to enclose the translate of an article of intelligence which Daulat Rao Sindhia received a few days ago, and which was communicated to me by the desire of his ministers. In reply to this communication, I observed that there could be no doubt of Jaswant Rao Holkar's having made proposals, as well to His Highness the Peshwa as to you, for the purpose of obtaining the objects specified by the news-writer, but that I could be answerable he never received any encouragement, either from His Highness, or from you, to expect any military aid in his present warfare with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 99**—Close informs Collins about the desire expressed by Sindhia and Bhonsla to meet the Peshwa.

**FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Bassein, 27th March 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 15th instant. The various packets you have enumerated have, I am happy to say, come regularly to hand.

By statements received from the Peshwa's ministers, I find that Daulat Rao Sindhia's communications to this Durbar are such as you have reported. He has informed the Peshwa of his having deputed Abba, Jadu Rao Bhaskar's nephew, to this Durbar for the purpose described in your address to His Excellency of the 12th instant; [he] expressed his desire to have full information on the subject of the Treaty of Bassein, and insinuated that he and the Berar Raja may find it necessary in so delicate a situation of affairs personally to visit the Peshwa's Durbar. The Peshwa has also received advices from Narain Rao Vaidya which state that the Berar Raja has expressed his intention of paying a visit to the Peshwa, but whether from motives of civility or displeasure does not appear.

Although the Peshwa laments extremely that Sindhia should be dissatisfied on account of the Treaty of Bassein he is still very averse that Sindhia should receive any particular information respecting the terms of the treaty, till after His Highness shall have joined the British troops, above the ghats. He is hopeful, however, that Balaji Kunjar has by this time reached his destination, and that the conciliatory explanations of this person will restore Sindhia to temper, and impress him with the expediency of his being reconciled to the late transactions at this Durbar.

Accompanying is a copy of a letter to Major Kirkpatrick, which contains the latest advices I have received from Poona.

The honorable General Wellesley having marched from the Tungabhadra towards Dharwar on the ninth instant, expected to be in the neighbourhood of that post on the twentieth where he [would be] joined by a convoy from Haliyal.

**No. 100**—Collins promises to co-operate fully with the Vakil of the Peshwa and hints at the possibility of peace being brought about between Holkar and Sindhia through the mediation of Bhonsla.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Camp near Sarola, 29th March 1803.*

Yesterday afternoon I had the honour to receive your several letters of the 13th, 17th, 18th and 25th instant with their respective enclosures. The arrival of these despatches on the same day, I cannot account for otherwise, than by supposing that the ill usage, which your *mutsaddi* at Poona lately experienced from Jaswant Rao Holkar's camp-followers,

has prevented him from attending, with his usual regularity, to the despatch of the Company's daks.

Ever since I was informed of the mission of Bala Kunjar to this Durbar, I have been determined to regulate my communications of the defensive treaty to the Maharaja in strict conformity with the degree of information which that vakil has received on this subject from the Peshwa's ministers, and you may rely on my cooperating with Bala Kunjar in all measures conducive to the benefit of the British Government and of the Poona State.

That Sindhia and Holkar have not the least reliance on each other's faith is most certain; nevertheless, I should feel no surprise were those Chieftains to come to an accommodation through the mediation of the Berar Raja, who is at present employed in this negotiation and who means, I understand, to guarantee any treaty of peace that may be concluded by the means of his mediation.

You will perceive by the contents of my letter of the 26th instant, that Daulat Rao Sindhia had been imperfectly informed on the subject of your address to Jaswant Rao Holkar. On receiving your favour of the 17th instant I lost no time in giving the Maharaja the substance of the 2nd paragraph of your letter to that Chieftain and I have reason to think that this communication was not without its proper effect.

I have already had the honour in my address of the 26th instant, to give you all the information I have been able to obtain respecting the extraordinary demand of Daulat Rao Sindhia on Sookhroodar Pandit. That the Maharaja made this demand has been admitted by his ministers, and I conceive that their justification of the measure can only be refuted or confirmed, by His Highness the Peshwa.

**No. 101**—In view of the possible renewal of war in Europe between England and France, Close is instructed to obtain as soon as possible the Peshwa's consent to a modification of article 11 of the Treaty of Bassein.

**FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Fort William, 30th March 1803.*

Advices which His Excellency the most noble the Governor General has received from Europe of the possible renewal of hostilities between Great Britain and France render it highly expedient in His Excellency's judgment that you should avail yourself of any state of circumstance, which may afford an expectation of obtaining the Peshwa's consent to

a modification of the 11th article of the treaty lately concluded between His Highness and the British Government.

The means afforded to us by the terms of that article for the exclusion of the influence and interest of France in the state of Poona even in time of war between Great Britain and France are defective and precarious, and in the season of peace no restraint whatever is imposed by that article which can preclude the danger of a future connection between the state of Poona and the French through the agency of persons of that nation or subjects of other European powers in the interests of France, residing within the Peshwa's dominions or holding official situation under His Highness's authority.

His Excellency is anxious to remedy these defects by obtaining the Peshwa's consent to the dismissal of any French who may now be residing within His Highness's dominions and to the insertion of an article in the present treaty in terms similar to those of the 6th article of the treaty concluded between the British Government and His Highness the Nizam on the 1st September 1798, in the room of the 11th article of the late engagement with the Peshwa.

A transcript of that part of the 6th article of the Treaty of Hyderabad of 1st September 1798, which relates to the subject of this letter, is enclosed for your information and guidance.

His Excellency desires that you will not neglect any opportunity which may be afforded you for the accomplishment of this important object at the earliest practicable period of time.

**No. 102**—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the objections raised by Munshi Kavalnayan on behalf of Sindhia to the advance of the British army to restore the Peshwa and Collins' reply to the same.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Sarola, 30th March 1803.*

Yesterday evening Munshi Kavalnayan waited on me by order of Daulat Rao Sindhia. After paying me several compliments in the name of his master, the Munshi said that the Maharaja, having been apprized that a large body of British troops was approaching the Maratha frontier by the route of Hyderabad; he (the Munshi) had been deputed to offer to my consideration certain remarks on this important event, and which the Maharaja trusted I would communicate to Your Excellency without delay.



Munshi Kavalnayan, at my entreaty, then proceeded to state as follows :

That the British Government was connected with his Sarkar, as well in friendship as in political views, since the measure of restoring His Highness the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona was equally the object and wish of the Maharaja as of Your Lordship. That the military preparations of Your Excellency, consequent of the outrages lately perpetrated at Poona, were expedient, wise, and proper under the existing circumstances ; but that the situation of Jaswant Rao Holkar was widely different now to what it was when His Highness the Peshwa applied for the protection of the British Government, since owing to the advanced state of Your Lordship's military preparations in the Deccan, and to the arrival of the army of the Maharaja at this place, Jaswant Rao had it no longer in his power, even if it were his intention, to prevent the immediate restoration of the Peshwa's authority. That this being the real state of affairs, the Maharaja conceived it would be altogether unnecessary that any considerable body of British troops should approach Poona, and therefore, he (Sindhia) could wish that Your Excellency would order the army now advancing by the route of Hyderabad, to halt on its arrival at the frontier of the Maratha territory. Munshi Kavalnayan concluded by observing that it was the intention of the Maharaja to proceed to Poona with all his forces, and that his master had directed him to suggest to me, how difficult it would be to secure a sufficiency of every description of provisions in the vicinity of Poona, should two large armies advance towards that city at the same time.

In reply, I observed to Munshi Kavalnayan that the Maharaja had delayed preferring his request until a compliance therewith became utterly impossible, since the distance from hence to Calcutta was so great, that before the wish of the Maharaja could even be made known to Your Excellency, the British army would most probably be arrived at Poona. I further said that Colonel Close in a letter under date the 14th of Ramzan (9th of January) had apprized the Maharaja, that in consequence of the defensive engagements entered into between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government, an English force would be stationed in the dominions of His Highness. That Colonel Close had received an answer to this letter, expressing the cordial and entire acquiescence of the Maharaja in the proposed measure, and that accordingly the British troops had been ordered to advance, for the purpose of restoring the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona ; and I repeated that it was now too late to make any reference on this subject to Your Lordship.

With respect to the suggestion of the Maharaja, regarding the difficulty of providing supplies in the vicinity of Poona for two large armies I said that this intimation evinced the wisdom of the Maharaja,

and likewise was a proof of his friendly disposition towards the English. However, in as much as this precaution referred to the British army, it was altogether needless, since Your Excellency, whose comprehensive mind embraced every object of importance, had adopted the necessary measures for securing ample supplies of all kinds of provisions for the use of the British troops, and that for a period of many months. That I conceived the army of the Maharaja was as little likely to suffer distress as ours, since it could be supplied from hence, or from Nagpur. But should these resources prove inadequate, that in this event the Maharaja might rely on the liberal assistance of our ally His Highness the Nizam, whose territories abounded in grain, as well as in every other article of camp consumption.

Munshi Kavalanayan seemed somewhat confused at my answer, and was silent for a considerable time after he received it. At length he said, there was certainly a great alteration in the situation of Jaswant Rao Holkar's affairs since the Maharaja replied to Colonel Close's letter. I admitted the justness of this remark, but at the same time desired the Munshi to recollect that it was nearly a month since I arrived at this court, and that no change whatever had taken place in Holkar's situation during my residence here, for it was now a matter of notoriety that the Maharaja had entered into a negotiation with that Chieftain, for the purpose of obtaining peace sometime previous to my arrival; nevertheless, that the Maharaja never intimated to me any wish of the nature he had now expressed, although had he then done so, there might have been time for me to have obtained Your Excellency's instructions on the subject, but which was at present impossible.

Munshi Kavalnayan agreed with me, that the application had been preferred too late to produce the desired effect; yet, he said, my writing to Your Excellency on the subject would gratify the Maharaja, and possibly, were I to represent to Colonel Close the present wish of his Prince, as well as the motives which induced it, such representation might be the means of preventing the advance of British troops beyond the frontier of the Nawab Nizam's country. I assured the Munshi that I should faithfully relate to Your Excellency the whole of the conversation that had passed between us, and that a copy of my letter on this occasion should likewise be forwarded to Colonel Close, to whom, however, I could make no representation, since I was well aware that the Colonel was not authorized by Your Excellency to adopt any measures that would in the least retard the restoration of His Highness the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona. I, moreover, insisted that the Munshi should apprise the Maharaja that although I had consented to write to Your Excellency on this subject, and also to send a transcript of what I wrote to Colonel Close, yet that my compliance in this instance would be attended with no effect whatever; and I concluded with requesting that

Ganpat Rai might be present when the Munshi delivered my answer to the Maharaja. This was readily assented to by Munshi Kavalnayan, who shortly after took his leave of me, accompanied by my agent Ganpat Rai.

The only reflections that occurred to my mind after the Munshi's departure were, that his Durbar is greatly alarmed at the approach of the British army towards the Maratha territory, and that the ministers conceived it might be possible to arrest its further progress by the language of intimidation.

Khande Rao and the daughter of Jaswant Rao Holkar have been released from confinement, and are now residing in the city of Assir, where they are treated with distinction. It is said that the Maharaja has promised to send both these children to Jaswant Rao Holkar, who is at present encamped at a place named Rujapore [Vaijapur—55 m. N. of Ahmadnagar], distant sixteen *kos* from Ahmadnagar.

I understand the Maharaja has received a letter from His Highness the Peshwa, informing him that he (the Peshwa) expected to arrive shortly at Poona under the protection of the British force, and enjoining him on no account to come to an accommodation with Holkar.

Jadu Rao writes to the Maharaja that the Berar Raja has sworn to continue the steadfast friend of this Durbar under all circumstances; but I do not understand that Raghuji Bhonsla has by any means consented to assist Sindhia either with money or with troops. However, the Berar Raja seems extremely desirous of effecting a reconciliation between Jaswant Rao Holkar and the Maharaja, and I have little doubt of his succeeding in the accomplishment of this object, as both the belligerent powers appear disposed to confide in his mediation.

**No. 103**—Collins asks for details about the strength of the English armies moving to restore the Peshwa.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

\* *Camp near Sarola, 2nd April 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th and 22nd ultimo, with their respective enclosures.

It affords me infinite pleasure to perceive by the contents of your address to His Excellency under date the 21st ultimo, that you entertain

no doubts respecting the firmness of His Highness the Peshwa, since there is little to apprehend from the junction of Sindhia and Holkar while His Highness continues true to the engagements which he has contracted with the British Government.

This Durbar is still being uneasy on the subject of the advance of the English troops. In fact Sindhia's ministers were so weak as to suppose that the restoration of the Peshwa was to be effected solely by the means of the Bombay army.

I should be highly obliged by your informing me of the strength of General Wellesley's detachment and also of the force appointed to escort His Highness the Peshwa to Poona. In a few days I hope to be enabled to give you a correct statement of Sindhia's army in the Deccan.

**No. 104**—Collins informs the Governor General about the intended march of Sindhia towards the Godavari, and also about Perron's raising a new brigade of regular infantry.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp, near Sarola, 4th April 1803.*

My agent Ganpat Rai has been dangerously ill ever since the morning of the 30th ultimo when I had the honour to address Your Excellency. But although I have not seen this man, yet I understand by a short note which he wrote to me that Munshi Kavalnayan made a faithful report to the Maharaja of the conversation which passed between him and me on the 29th of last month. Ganpat Rai further tells me that while he was present Daulat Rao Sindhia made no remark on this occasion.

Jadu Rao advises this Durbar in a late despatch that he is making great efforts in order to induce the Berar Raja to send a body of cavalry to reinforce the army of the Maharaja. Jadu Rao also writes that Raghuji Bhonsla was of opinion that Sindhia should repair to the Godavari taking with him Khande Rao and the daughter of Jaswant Rao Holkar for the purpose of surrendering them to the latter Chieftain.

The Maharaja has expressed an intention of commencing his march towards the Ganga-Godavari in the course of a few days and it is said that he has written to Holkar proposing a meeting on the banks of that river.

That these are the present resolves of this Durbar I have no doubt, but whether they will be persevered in is not so certain, since Daulat Rao

Sindhia's ministers are wavering in their counsels and unsteady in their conduct in consequence of the alarm occasioned by the approach of the British troops towards the Maratha frontier.

Major Brownrigg arrived at Ujjain on the 24th ultimo. I understand his battalions have mutinied on account of long arrears of pay, and confined the Major along with all his European officers.

My assistant Captain P. Bradshaw lately received a letter from an English officer in the service of General Perron. This letter states that the general had nearly completed a new brigade of regular infantry. The foregoing information appeared to me of sufficient importance to be communicated to Your Excellency.

**No. 105**—Close informs the Governor General that Bhonsla had advised Sindhia not to antagonize the English. He encloses the translation of a letter from a Brahmin at Poona.

**FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Bassein, 8th April 1803.*

I have the honour to enclose a translation of a letter of late date from the Brahmin employed by me at Poona.

Yesterday I had the pleasure to receive from Colonel Collins a copy of his address to Your Lordship of the 30th March. In a letter to me which accompanied it, he alludes to a despatch which he had forwarded to me under date 26th March which has not come to hand. The Colonel's account of the reply which Sindhia had received from the Nagpur Durbar is confirmed by a letter received from Narain Rao Vaidya, who states, I understand, that the Raja of Nagpur has given it as his deliberate and decided opinion that it would be highly imprudent in Sindhia to break with the hon'ble Company, the British power in India having so much increased and being now so formidable as to make it but too evident that no Maratha combination could oppose it with a prospect of success.

His Majesty's 78th Regiment is just landing here, and will join Colonel Murray in the course of the day.

I have no advices from the hon'ble Major-General Wellesley's camp of date later than the 27th March, but a report prevails that the army had arrived at Miraj and were joined by 6 or 7,000 horse.

**No. 106**—From a Brahmin at Poona, dated 1st April 1803, giving details about the movements of Holkar and his letter to Amrit Rao.

Yesterday Amrit Rao Saheb received a letter from Jaswant Rao Holkar. It was to the following effect :—

“ That he (Holkar) had received a letter from the Nagpur Raja, couched in these terms. That he (Holkar) should immediately come on to the Godavari—that Sindhia would approach to that quarter, and he (the Rajah) likewise would meet them both on the Godavari ; that all these having met on the banks of that river, they would send for the Peshwa Baji Rao, and also for Amrit Rao, and the rest of the chieftains, namely, the members of the Miraj family, the Raste family, etc., and then finally arrange the affairs of the Maratha Empire ; that Sindhia's vakil, and Baji Rao's vakil had already arrived at the Raja's Court. Holkar's letter then proceeds to state, that although he had formerly desired him (Amrit Rao) to come on to the Godavari, yet as the Nagpur Raja would soon address a letter to him, it would be proper that he should remain at Poona, till such letter should come to hand.” On this account Amrit Rao had postponed his march.

Jaswant Rao had arrived within ten kos of the Godavari. After receiving the above letter from Jaswant Rao Holkar, Amrit Rao referred to some Persian papers, and caused them to be translated into the Marathi language, and his view in doing so, was to ascertain whether, when the Nagpur Raja should proceed to settle the affairs of the Empire, it would be requisite, that any negotiation should be carried on with the English.

Amrit Rao has sent a letter to the Nizam, intimating that demands for cash had been made on the *amildar* of the *parganah* of Bassim, who according to custom, should pay a tribute to the Peshwa's Government ; as the *amildar*, however, refused to comply, it was proper His Highness should compel him to discharge his tribute now due.

Some of Fateh Singh Maunia's Cavalry have gone over to the Miraj jagirdar, and to the Raja of Kolahpur. Maunia's force may now consist of 6,000 cavalry, and 5,000 infantry.

Meer Khan continues near Pandharpur, and Shahamat Khan at Pauncor [Panchwad].

**No. 107**—In this important letter Collins gives details of his interview with Sindhia and points out that the Maratha Princes have begun to show alarm at the advance of the British army towards Poona.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Burhanpur, 9th April 1803.*

I informed Secretary Mr. Edmonstone on the 7th instant that Daulat Rao Sindhia had appointed the following day to receive Your Excellency's letter. Accordingly I waited on the Maharaja yesterday afternoon when, after an interchange of compliments, I presented the *khariṭa* to him, which he received with becoming respect.

Your Lordship's letter was delivered to Munshi Kavalnayan for the purpose of explaining its contents to the Maharaja in the Hindustani language, and I was pleased to observe that the Munshi performed this duty with great distinctness.

Sindhia listened with much attention while the latter was reading, and at the conclusion thereof, declared with apparent earnestness, that Gopal Bhau had never been instructed to enforce payment of the chauth by hostile means. I assured the Maharaja of my firm belief in his assertion, but at the same time reminded him that Your Excellency has in the most friendly manner, suggested the impropriety of addressing a demand for chauth to one of the Nawab Nizam's subordinate officers, instead of preferring the same to His Highness, or to his minister in order that the claim might be discussed by amicable negotiation, through the channel of friendly correspondence, or of authorized agents.

Sindhia being silent on the foregoing observation, Anna Bhaskar said that the Maharaja would explain all matters in his reply to Your Excellency's letter; however, for Your Lordship's satisfaction, he should state, in the meantime, that the Nizam had claims of chauth on some *zillas* appertaining to the Marathas, who, likewise, had similar demands on some *parganas* belonging to His Highness among which Bhir and Parenda were included, and that it had invariably been the usage to apply for payment directly to the *amils*, who were in charge of those districts subject to chauth, and not to the heads of their respective governments. With regard to Gopal Bhau, Anna Bhaskar said he was now one hundred *kos* distant from Bhir and Parenda, and that he had not received any money on account of chauth, from either of those *parganas*. He concluded his discourse, by repeating that a fuller

explanation would be given on this subject, in the answer, which the Maharaja would shortly send to Your Lordship.

Neither the Maharaja, or his ministers, took the least notice of Your Excellency's intimation of my being instructed to concert with him the means of effecting an amicable adjustment of the differences subsisting between him and Jaswant Rao Holkar, and although I called the attention of the Maharaja to that paragraph by remarking on the friendly interest which Your Lordship took in his affairs, as well as on the anxiety which Your Excellency had expressed for the restoration of tranquillity in the Maratha Empire, yet these observations drew no reply whatever from Sindhia, or his servants. In short, it was easy to perceive that this Durbar is not only alarmed, but also much displeased, at the advance of the British army towards Poona.

Daulat Rao Sindhia has detached eight thousand Pindari horse to Kalpi and Jhansi under the command of one of Ambaji Rao's confidential *karkoons* named Dharam Rao.

I am informed that Ambaji has lately addressed the chiefs of Bundelkhand to the following effect :—

“No doubt you are apprized of the ambitious views of the English and have in consequence adopted measures of security. From an apprehension that the British power will cause the ruin of the Maratha Sardars the Bhonsla and Holkar have united with Daulat Rao Sindhia for the purpose of opposing the British Government.”

A news-writer in my employ who resides in the camp of Holkar advises me that the Bhonsla has written Jaswant Rao that the people of the Deccan, Baji Rao and the English were preparing to possess themselves of the Maratha territories : that a dominion of many years' existence would be totally annihilated if he and Daulat Rao Sindhia persisted to oppose each other and therefore it was their interest to re-establish the power of the Marathas. In consequence of this remonstrance Holkar proposed that the three powers should have a meeting, that they should attack the Nizam and oppose the accomplishment of the measures entered into between the English and Peshwa.

I learn that Jaswant Rao Holkar arrived within twelve *kos* of the Ganga-Godavari on the 3rd of this month, that he purposes to proceed to the banks of that river, and to halt there for some days.

As the sepoy's of my escort were becoming sickly, I deemed it expedient to move my ground for the benefit of a change of air. Accordingly I this morning marched a few miles nearer to the city of Burhanpur. However, I still continue in the vicinity of the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia, from whose tents I am now distant only a *kos* and half.



**No. 108**—Collins agrees to point out to Sindhia that the Treaty of Bassein was strictly defensive in its nature.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Camp near Burhanpur, 10th April 1803.*

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In consequence of your suggestion, I shall, immediately adopt effectual measures to convince Daulat Rao Sindhia that the Treaty of Bassein is strictly defensive and contains no stipulation whatever to the effect mentioned in your letter of the 27th of last month.

I have the honour to forward a copy of my address to His Excellency the most noble the Governor the General of the 9th instant. This letter will inform you of everything that I know respecting the movements and intentions of Jaswant Row Holkar.

In fact my intelligence from that quarter has of late been greatly retarded in consequence of Holkar having quitted the track of our daks, as I now receive no news from the camp of that Chief but by the means of *kasids* whom my Akhbar-navis only employ occasionally.

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**No. 109**—Duncan points out to Collins that the change in the attitude of Sindhia towards the English was reflected in his policy within his districts in Gujarat. He also expects Collins to try for the support of Sindhia in putting down Kanhoji Gaikwad, the rebel.

**FROM—J. DUNCAN, THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Bombay, 11th April 1803.*

I have this morning been favoured with your letter of the 5th instant and am sorry to find so indifferent a disposition in the ministers of Daulat Rao Sindhia, the more so, as that Chieftain had himself but lately written to the Resident at the court of His Highness the Peshwa in terms of marked approbation of the advance of the British troops, at which he now appears to have taken umbrage, to which may accordingly be now ascribed with a considerable probability the recent event reported by the Resident at Baroda of the dismissal of Parbhudas (a man who was very friendly to the English) from the *amaldari* of Broach, which is said to have been

conferred on the present minister Ambaji Ingle together with Pawagarh and other districts contiguous to the Gaikwad territories in Gujrat.

Under these circumstances I shall rely on your availing yourself of the first recurrence to good humour in Sindhia and his ministers to procure their adoption of the most effectual means for the apprehension of Kanhoji and his adherents, who according to the latest accounts from Gujrat continue at Dohad or Dahar in considerable distress, but persevering in plotting the means of another inroad into the country of our ally, Anand Rao Gaikwad, which it is become extremely desirable to prevent their being able to effect, and I am persuaded that nothing will be wanting on your part to accomplish an object so important to the consideration of our newly acquired influence and interests in that quarter of India, as well as that you will continue to keep Major Walker or me advised of any future events, which may have a tendency to affect our situation in that country.

**No. 110**—Close informs Collins that the ministers of the Peshwa do not acknowledge the claim of Sindhia to take chauth from any of the districts in the Deccan.

**FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Bassein, 14th April 1803.*

I have consulted the Peshwa's ministers on the subject of Daulat Rao Sindhia's demand of chauth of Bhir, Parenda, etc., and they have requested of me, on His Highness's part, to address you in reply as follows, viz. :—

That the collection of chauth in the Deccan on the part of the Poona State, has no concern whatever with the office of Naib held by Daulat Rao, the duties of which refer solely to affairs in Hindustan, and that accordingly His Highness the Peshwa does not recognize any order whatever from his government to Daulat Rao Sindhia, authorizing him in any capacity to demand or collect the said chauth or any other, from districts in the Deccan ; that the demand, therefore, made by Daulat Rao Sindhia, as before-stated, can be regarded only as having arisen from some mistake ; but that should Daulat Rao Sindhia's ministers be hard enough to adhere to their statement of their master's having been authorized to make the demand in question, it is only fair and reasonable that they should produce the orders issued by the Peshwa's Durbar for the purpose.

I shall transmit a copy of this letter for the information of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

**No. 111**—Collins awaits the arrival of Major Brownrigg when he hopes to give definite information about the real strength of Sindhia's forces.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT WITH THE PESHWA.**

*Camp near Burhanpur, 17th April 1803.*

I have received your letter of the 9th and 10th instant with their respective enclosures. From the contents of the former I perceive, with much concern that my dispatch to you under date the 26th ultimo has miscarried. I, therefore, lose no time in forwarding a duplicate thereof.

The abstract you have had the goodness to favor me with, and the assurances you give me of the Peshwa's being confident and happy in his alliance with the Hon'ble Company have afforded me infinite satisfaction.

Major Brownrigg is expected here in a few days. On the arrival of this officer I shall be enabled to inform you of the force which Sindhia might oppose to our formidable army, should he be so imprudent and unadvised as to attempt to obstruct the completion of the arrangements concluded at Bassein.

The ministers of this Durbar preserve a sullen demeanour towards me, more becoming boys than men. This, however, has no effect on my behaviour, which is, invariably, attentive and respectful to the Maharaja, and civil to all his confidential servants.

**No. 112**—In this important letter addressed to the Governor General Collins acquaints him with the details of his interview with Vitthal Pant and Munshi Kavalnayan.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Burhanpur, 19th April 1803.*

Yesterday forenoon Vitthal Pant, a person much in the confidence of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and Munshi Kavalnayan waited on me by order of the Maharaja.

After the usual compliments had passed between us, Vitthal Pant began the discourse by affirming that the Treaty of Bassein ought to have been negotiated through the mediation of Sindhia who, as guarantee to the Treaty of Salbai, was the proper person to have been employed on

that occasion. In reply, I observed that this point had already been discussed, Munshi Kavalnayan having received a full answer to it from me both verbally, and in writing. To that answer, therefore, which had never been confuted I must beg leave to refer.

Vitthal Pant then said that the engagements between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government, meaning those lately contracted, had been kept secret from the Maharaja, who was even ignorant of the relation in which he now stood towards the hon'ble Company. Then, assuming a high tone of voice, he asked whether it was intended, by this treaty, to take the turban from the head of Daulat Rao Sindhia?

I replied that the treaty of Bassein had made no alteration whatever in the relations of amity that had so long subsisted between our respective governments, that Your Excellency always considered the Maharaja as firmly connected in friendship with the hon'ble Company, in proof of which Your Lordship had authorized me to make an offer of admitting the Maharaja to the benefits of the general defensive alliance on terms similar to those recently concluded with His Highness Baji Rao. Adverting to Vitthal Pant's question, I said, it was by no means the intention of Your Lordship to deprive Daulat Rao Sindhia of his turban, or of any authority to which he had a just right, nor had Your Excellency the least design of injuring the interests of any of the Deccani Sardars, of which fact he (Vitthal Pant) could not be uninformed, since I had already apprized the Maharaja and his ministers that the late treaty concluded at Bassein was purely of a defensive nature.

It appeared to me that the high tone assumed by Vitthal Pant at the commencement of our conversation, was designed to intimidate me into a concession, the attainment of which was the sole object of his visit, for he abruptly changed the subject we were then discussing, and began to speak of the advance of the British troops towards Poona. On this head he affirmed that so novel a measure had excited doubts and suspicions in this Durbar, which could only be removed by its being altogether relinquished, and that as I was deputed to the court of the Maharaja for the purpose of cementing the friendly connection at present subsisting between the two Sarkars, I should act conformably to the intent of my mission, and likewise render an essential service to both governments by preventing the further advance of the British army.

My reply to this proposal was similar to that which I had formerly given to Munshi Kavalnayan, now that there was no time for an appeal to Your Excellency on this subject, and that nothing could be done in it without orders from Your Lordship. Upon which Vitthal Pant said, it clearly appeared by the contents of Your Excellency's letter to the Maharaja, that I was invested with full powers, and consequently that I might, if I pleased, prevent the approach of the British arms to Poona.

It was not without much difficulty I could make the servants of the Maharaja comprehend that I was by no means entrusted with such extensive powers as they supposed, and when this had been explained to them, Vitthal Pant then affected to apprehend that disturbances and disagreements might arise between our respective armies, when the united forces of Daulat Rao Sindhia, of Raghuji Bhonsla and of Jaswant Rao Holkar were assembled in the vicinity of Poona.

I replied that in the event alluded to everything would depend on the conduct of the Maratha troops, whom the English officers would consider as friends while they behaved as such. But on the other hand should the Deccani Sardars evince that their designs were hostile, they would most assuredly find that the British forces were fully prepared to act with their wonted vigours. I then took occasion to remark that the advance of our army towards Poona was a measure of which the Maharaja had been duly apprized by Colonel Close, and that if he (Sindhia) had been adverse thereto, he ought at once to have stated his objections to the Colonel; instead of which, however, the Maharaja had given his cheerful assent to the measure. I further observed that when the proposed advance of the English troops had been mentioned to Sindhia, he was at that time determined on prosecuting the war against Jaswant Rao Holkar, and consequently desirous of that support which he would have derived from the presence of the British army at Poona; but that the situation of affairs was now changed, and as the Maharaja no longer required the assistance of our forces, he wished to prevent their approach, not adverting to the engagements which the British Government had lately contracted with the Peshwa for the purpose of restoring His Highness to the *ma nad* of Poona, nor reflecting that were the English army to retire without effecting the service for which it had been ordered to advance, its retreat would be generally ascribed to the powerful remonstrances of this Court, which opinion would be highly derogatory to the dignity to His Excellency's Government.

I conclude that the vehemence with which Vitthal Pant commenced the conversation had somewhat exhausted his voice, and this possibly was the cause of his not replying to my last observations, to which however, he was very attentive. Soon after he took a civil leave of me accompanied by Munshi Kavalnayan, but with an intention, I understand, of soon paying me another visit.

Two days since the boy Khande Rao visited the Maharaja in great state, and at present resides in the camp of Ambaji Rao. This morning Ambaji set off to meet Kashi Rao Holkar, who is arrived within seven kos of the city of Burhanpur.

Major Brownrigg has just joined Sindhia with four battalions of sepoy and twenty-seven field-pieces.

Colonel Close has favoured me with an extract of a letter under date the 23rd ultimo addressed to Your Excellency by the Resident of Hyderabad. As this extract relates solely to an intimation from Khande Rao to Azim-ul-Umrah, respecting the anxiety of Sindhia to be informed of the particulars of the treaty lately concluded at Bassein. I should not have recalled it Your Lordship's notice had I not perceived that Major Kirkpatrick terms Khande Rao "news-writer" to His Highness the Nizam, whereas in my letters to Your Excellency this man is denominated "vakil" on the part of His Highness; although there can be no doubt whatever of the correctness of Major Kirkpatrick's designation of the office of Khande Rao, yet, in my own justification, I must beg leave to assure Your Lordship that he is considered as the Nizam's vakil at this Court, that in this capacity he accompanied Daulat Rao Sindhia in his visit to me on the 7th of last month, and in the list which Sindhia's ministers gave of the names and titles of those persons who would attend the Maharaja on the foregoing occasion, Khande Rao was termed "the vakil of the Nawab Nizam Ali Khan".

**No. 113**—Collins informs Close that Sindhia and his ministers think that their influence at the Poona Durbar has been materially injured by the Treaty of Bassein.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT WITH THE PESHWA.**

*Camp near Burhanpur, 21st April 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 11th instant in duplicate and to forward a copy of my last address to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General under date the 19th of this month.

Every possible means have been resorted to by me, in order to impress a belief on the mind of the Maharaja of the friendly disposition of His Excellency towards this government, nor have my endeavours altogether failed of the desired effect. At least Sindhia is, I believe, satisfied that the Treaty of Bassein contains no stipulation injurious to

his just rights, nor incompatible with the relation of friendship subsisting between his Sarkar and the British Government ; the Maharaja is, however, well aware that his influence at the Poona Durbar has been materially injured by that treaty and this reflection causes some uneasiness to Sindhia, but infinitely more to his ministers.

I have received a copy of Secretary Mr. Edmonstone's letter to you, dated the 30th ultimo, on which I shall only remark that had it reached me a few days sooner I should have been spared the mortification of giving this Durbar any assurances respecting the French, since it may hereafter be supposed that those assurances were made with a view to deceive the Maharaja.

I have the honour to enclose a statement of Sindhia's force at this place.

**No. 114**—Collins informs the Governor General about the movements of Holkar, Sindhia and Bhonsla.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Burhanpur, 25th April 1803.*

I have this instant received the following intelligence from my agent with Jaswant Rao Holkar.

That this Chief arrived in the vicinity of Aurangabad on the [ ] instant. That he publicly declared an intention of laying waste the country of the Nizam as far as Hyderabad and said that in the event of his being opposed by regular troops, he would march [50 ? ] kos a day destroying in the meantime all kinds of provisions.

My agent also writes that Jaswant Rao Holkar has received satisfactory assurances from the Berar Raja as well as from Sindhia, that the territorial possessions of the Holkar family, as likewise the person of the boy Khande Rao, shall be surrendered to him.

Yesterday evening Daulat Rao Sindhia paid a visit to Kashi Rao Holkar who resides in the camp of Ambaji Rao Ingle. Kashi Rao was

in such distress, on his arrival here, that the Maharaja was obliged to advance him a sum of money to provide camp-equipage and other necessities, in order that he might make an appearance suitable to his rank.

The ministers of this Darbar affirm that the Raja of Berar is actually on his march towards Amraoti, and that Daulat Rao Sindhia will leave this place about the 6th of next month in order to proceed towards Poona.

I have already apprized the Hon'ble Major-General Wellesley of the motions and designs of Jaswant Rao Holkar in a private letter, and I shall continue to give the Hon'ble General every material article of intelligence which I may obtain at this court.

Although I do not fail to press Sindhia's ministers, every day, for an answer to Your Excellency's last address to the Maharaja, yet my instances have been hitherto disregarded. Indeed the conduct of this Durbar in demanding chauth for Bhir, Parenda, etc. cannot be justified on any ground whatever, as appears by Colonel Close's letter to me on this subject, under date the 14th instant, of which Your Lordship has a copy; and hence, possibly, arises the reluctance of ministers to give any reply, in writing, to the remonstrance of Your Excellency, against the irregularity of their conduct on the foregoing occasion.

**No. 115**—Ambaji Ingle is negotiating a peace between Sindhia and Holkar.

FROM—A. WELLESLEY,

TO—J. STUART.

*Camp at Poona, 26th April 1803.*

I did not march this morning, as I intended, as I heard last night that Holkar had made three marches towards this place, and I thought it proper to halt this day to ascertain the truth of this report. The result of my inquiries is, that he has marched towards the Nizam's frontier, and he was on the 21st at a station about eight kos from the Godavari, and at a small distance from the frontier of Holkar's, of the Nizam's, and of Sindhia's territories. He had not on that day had the interview with Ambaji Ingle, which it is supposed will produce a peace between Holkar and Sindhia;



and it is reported that Ambaji Ingle had sent to the Raja of Berar the boy Khande Rao Holkar, who is a great bone of contention between Sindhia and Holkar, and this circumstance may delay the negotiations for peace. If they are only delayed till the Peshwa's arrival here, and that we shall be enabled to take up a better position for the defence of the Nizam's frontier, I think that all will end well. I intend to-morrow to march towards the hills.

*P.S.*—I believe the Peshwa was to leave Bassein yesterday.

**No. 116**—As Holkar is camping near the Nizam's boundary, Gen. Wellesley deems it essential that Stevenson should march northwards, as it will possibly avert an invasion by Holkar.

*Extract of a letter from Major-General the Honourable A. Wellesley to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, dated Camp at Panwullah\*, the 28th April 1803.*

I have received intelligence that Jaswant Rao Holkar has entered the Nizam's territories in the neighbourhood of Aurangabad and Daulatabad. It is said by some, that he has only encamped in the neighbourhood of villages belonging to himself, within the Nizam's boundary; but at all events, the officers in the Nizam's service with Colonel Stevenson's corps are much alarmed for the safety of His Highness's possessions and of those two forts, and have urged strongly that some measures should be taken for their defence.

The Peshwa will arrive at Poona on the 2nd, and it is probable that the troops which are with him will arrive in a day or two afterwards. Meer Khan, Holkar's Sardar, in command of his largest detachment, still keeps open his negotiation with the Nizam to enter His Highness's service. On the 2nd of May, therefore, we shall be in greater strength than ever at Poona, we shall have attained one great object of our expedition; and, if Holkar should not be weakened by the desertion of Meer Khan, at least his confidence in that Chief must be shaken.

Under these circumstances, I have thought it proper to desire Colonel Stevenson to collect the Nizam's army and the subsidiary force at Gardun, and to make three or four marches to the northward. If he should find that Holkar is only plundering the villages on that frontier, in the same manner that they have been plundered in every year by every chief who approaches the boundary, he is not to go farther on; but if he should find

\* Panowullah—A village about 10m. N.W. of Poona.

that Holkar makes a serious attack upon either of the Nizam's forts of Daulatabad or Aurangabad, he must move quickly to their support.

In the former case, although at some distance from me, we shall still be able to combine our operations, or to join if necessary, and in the latter case I must move to the northward and eastward, to be at hand to support Colonel Stevenson in case any support should be given to Holkar by the other parties. My opinion is, that this is only a plundering excursion of Holkar's. It is certain that he has not yet made his peace with Sindhia; and whatever he may do hereafter, he would not venture upon so desperate a course of action as a regular attack on the Nizam, previous to that event, and I think that Colonel Stevenson's first movement to the northward will induce him to withdraw; whether it has that effect or not, Holkar is so much weakened, and Colonel Stevenson is so much strengthened, that the force of the latter must be considered more than a match for that of the former. The only doubt I had upon my mind respecting the propriety of giving Colonel Stevenson those instructions, was occasioned by the Governor General's wish that all hostilities should be avoided; but I conceive an attack upon the Nizam's country must be resisted, and that means must be taken to prevent Jaswant Rao from obtaining such a footing within it as he would have by the possession of the forts of Daulatabad or Aurangabad.

As soon as I shall receive a true account of the state of affairs in that quarter, I propose to write to Holkar, respecting his situation on the Nizam's frontier.

**No. 117**—Collins is instructed to induce Sindhia to return to Hindustan, and to continue to remain in Sindhia's camp even if he does not accede to the request.

FROM -N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA,

TO -J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort, William, 29th April 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 5th instant and to inform you in reply to the reference which it contains, that it will be your duty to employ every effort in your power to induce Daulat Rao Sindhia to return to Hindustan. But if your endeavours for that purpose should prove unsuccessful, and Sindhia should still keep the field, His Excellency is of opinion that it will be indispensably necessary that you should continue to attend the Chieftain's camp.

**No. 118**—Collins informs the Governor General about his efforts to secure from Sindhia an answer to Governor General's letter, and goes on to add details about the activities of Jaswant Rao Holkar, Sindhia and Bhonsla.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Burhanpur, 30th April 1803.*

As Daulat Rao Sindhia has returned on answer to Your Excellency's letter on the subject of the chauth demanded from Shridhar Pandit, and as I knew from good authority that Gopal Bhau had actually exacted payment of nearly five lakhs of rupees from the Nizam's officers at Bhir and Parenda, I thought it necessary to address the Maharaja on both these points ; and Ganpat Rai having assured me he is now treated with the most marked coolness at his Durbar, I employed Mirza Bakar Khan on the occasion. The enclosure No. 1 contains an English copy of my message to Sindhia. No. 2 is a translation of the conversation he held with the Maharaja and his ministers.

Your Lordship will readily conceive, I feel, some difficulty in restraining myself in the present instance, since it is evident by Colonel Close's letter to me of the 14th instant, that Sindhia never was authorized by the Peshwa to collect chauth in the Deccan ; but as I have good reason to believe that the ministers of this court are very urgent with the Maharaja to consent to the election of a new Peshwa, and as Sindhia may be called on for restitution at some future period, I conceive that it might be injurious to the interests of His Highness Baji Rao, were I now to declare, that his confidential servants denied the right of the Maharaja to collect chauth from the Nawab Nizam's districts.

Jaswant Rao Holkar having opened a battery against the city of Aurangabad, the officer commanding on the part of His Highness the Nizam gave responsible security to Holkar for the payment of eleven lakhs of rupees to save the place from being plundered. Jaswant Rao has likewise exacted about four lakhs from Hasub [Harsul?] Kera and Vaiapur, two towns appertaining to the Nawab Nizam.

The Durbar pretends to be altogether unconcerned in Holkar's proceedings ; but I cannot believe that this Chieftain would venture thus to draw on himself the resentment of the English Government, were he not well assured of the support of the Berar Raja and Sindhia : in short it appears to me, that these three Sardars are confederated for the purpose of opposing the completion of the engagements concluded at Basscin.

Raghuji Bhonsla has made three marches towards Amraoti, and Daulat Rao Sindhia has intimated to me that he shall move from hence in a few days, in order to follow the Bhonsla, with whom he is to have an interview at Badowli, a hill ghat in the country of His Highness the Nizam, distant about 50 *kos* from Burhanpur.

Jadu Rao has accompanied the Berar Raja, and I now understand that the Maharaja will commence his march from hence without waiting for the return of his minister. War with the English is publicly talked of in the Maratha camp at this place ; this occasions some alarm to the British subjects in the service of Sindhia. Colonel Doddernigue [Dudrenec], Major Brownrigg, and Major Smith have assured me that they should have visited me long ago, but for the prohibition of the ministers of this court.

**No. 118A—Enclosure.**

*Message delivered by Mirza Bakar Khan, on the part of Colonel Collins, to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia on the evening of the 27th April 1803.*

After the usual compliments, you will address Daulat Rao Sindhia to the following effect :

I am deputed to the Maharaja by Colonel Collins, as well for the purpose of obtaining a reply to His Excellency the Governor General's friendly *kharitah*, as to confer on some other points of business. Colonel Collins has ordered me to represent to the Maharaja, that 19 days have elapsed since he presented the most noble the Governor General's letter, containing matter of the utmost importance ; and that the delay which had occurred in returning an answer to it appeared to him inconsistent with that respect and friendship which the Maharaja professed to entertain for His Excellency. That when the contents of this *kharitah* had been explained by Munshi Kavalnayan, Anna Bhaskar affirmed that Gopal Bhau had not collected any money from the districts subject to the authority of the Nawab Nizam Ali Khan, and that he (Gopal Bhau) was then absent 100 *kos* distant from Bhir and Parenda, which assurance the Colonel did not fail to communicate to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General ; nevertheless, it now appears that Gopal Bhau has actually collected from the above-mentioned places nearly five lakhs of rupees. That when His Excellency should be apprized of this circumstance, His Lordship would naturally conclude that the ministers of the Maharaja had acted uncandidly, and might in consequence entertain doubts of the friendly disposition of this Durbar ; and since the Colonel was deputed to the Maharaja by His Excellency not only to preserve, but

also to improve the relations of friendship which have so long subsisted between the two states, he feels it particularly incumbent on him to use every endeavour in order to remove any doubts which might arise on either side. That it was merely with this view the Colonel had assured the Maharaja and his ministers, in the most explicit terms, that the treaty lately concluded at Bassein contained no stipulations injurious to the just rights and authority of the Maharaja, nor to the interests of the other Deccani Sardars, and that the said treaty was purely of a defensive nature. I am now ordered by the Colonel to request that the Maharaja will declare in the same candid manner, whether Gopal Bhau was authorised by this Durbar to collect the money which he has lately exacted from Bhir and Parenda ; and also to desire an immediate answer to the last address of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

**No. 118B—Enclosure.**

*Translation of minutes of the conference Mirza Bakar Khan held with Daulat Rao Sindhia and his ministers on 27th April 1803.*

In the evening of Wednesday the 27th of April I waited on the Maharaja and having offered the customary complements in your name, I represented to him every particular with which you had intrusted me. Vitthal Pant, Anna Bhaskar, Bappu Chitnavis, and Munshi Kavalnayan were present. The Maharaja after listening to me with attention, directed Munshi Kavalnayan to prepare an answer to the *kharitah* of the most noble the Governor General, and to send it to you without delay ; then addressing himself to me, he said I should receive it immediately. He added that he relied on you for the removal, by suitable means, of doubts from the breasts of both parties, for that you were as much his friend, as that of the most noble the Governor General, and that you were as sincerely desirous to promote the interests of his Sarkar, as those of His Excellency's Government. Anna Bhaskar here assured me that my statement of his declaration was correct. He did assert, he said, that Gopal Bhau collected no money from Bhir and Parenda, and was distant from those places one hundred *kos*, and that your having communicated his declaration to the most noble the Governor General was, therefore, a matter of no consequence. Anna Bhaskar further observed that after your visit to the Maharaja, the Nizam's vakil stated at the Durbar, that Gopal Bhau had collected the money in question, in consequence of which, orders were sent by the Maharaja for the recall of Gopal Rao who, accordingly, is now encamped at the distance of 25 *kos* from the boundary of the Nawab Nizam. When Gopal Bhau renders in the accounts it will then appear whether he has made the collection alluded to. The Peshwa has claims

of *deshmukhi* and chauth on the Nawab Nizam ever since the commencement of their respective governments, and there are certain places on which both parties have claims; differences consequently arise, and troops are detached there if found necessary. In the present condition, however, the forces of the Maharaja have exercised no undue act of power in the dominion of the Nawab Nizam. Possibly the Colonel may not be fully informed on the subject of *deshmukhi* and chauth. To this I replied that the situation of affairs in both Hindustan and Deccan was perfectly well known to you; and that no particular relating to them was a secret to you, but that it was your desire to see the affairs of the Maharaja conducted in a manner consistent with the obligations of amity and friendship. The Maharaja here observed that he had a reliance on your friendship. I now took occasion to remark that it was your duty, so it was your wish, to remove the causes of mutual doubts; you were desirous to know whether the Maharaja had authorized Gopal Bhau to make demands on the territories of the Nawab Nizam? The ministers all, with one voice replied, that Gopal Bhau was the servant of the Maharaja, and that everything would be stated in the answer to the *kharita*, which would be sent without delay.

**No. 119**—Collins sends to the Governor General a copy of the note sent by him to Sindhia on receiving the latter's reply to the remonstrance of the Governor General, and he sends news about the activities of Sindhia and Holkar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Burhanpur, 2nd May 1803.*

I have the honour to forward the reply of Daulat Rao Sindhia to Your Excellency's remonstrance on the subject of the chauth demanded of Shridhar Pant by the Maharaja.

A copy of this answer was sent to me about an hour since, and at the same time I received written intimation from Sindhia of his intention to march from hence on the 4th instant. As the concluding paragraph of the Maharaja's letter to Your Lordship appeared in my judgment highly improper, I felt it incumbent on me to express at the instant a desire to leave his court. Accordingly I did so in the reply which I gave to his written intimation, and I herewith do myself the honour to transmit, for the information of Your Excellency, an English transcript of my note to Sindhia on the foregoing occasion. [Enclosure No. 1]

I understand General Perron applied for, and obtained, the consent of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to repair to Lucknow, yet at this Durbar it is confidently asserted, that General Perron is extremely active and busy at Koil in levying new troops, and in making other preparations with a view to hostilities.

I have already apprized Your Excellency that the Maharaja has detached from hence 8,000 Pindaries towards Kalpi, and I now learn, that another body of cavalry, 10,000 strong, will shortly march to Hindustan from this camp.

Meer Khan joined Jaswant Rao Holkar in the vicinity of Aurangabad on the 27th ultimo. Several of Holkar's Sardars have advised him to turn my news-writer out of his camp, and I should not be in the least surprised were the event to happen, since a more brutal person than Holkar never, I believe, existed.

**No. 119A—Enclosure.**

*An English Translation of the note sent by J. Collins, the Resident with Sindhia, to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia in the morning of 2nd May 1803.*

I have received the friendly letter of the Maharaja intimating his intention of marching from hence on the 12th Mohurram (4th of May), and proposing that I should send *harkarahs* forward with his *Binee Walah* (Quarter Master) in order to select ground for my own encampment.

My friend ! the case is this : His Excellency the most noble the Governor General conceiving it was the design of the Maharaja to proceed to Poona with all practicable expedition, instructed me to follow him thither for the purpose of concerting some plan for restoring tranquillity in the Deccan. If, therefore, it be the intention of my friend to proceed direct to Poona, I shall with pleasure accompany him in his march to that city ; but if the Maharaja has it in contemplation to repair to any place in the territory of the Nawab Nizam in order to have an interview with Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, which I am informed is his design, in that case, as my presence at this court would no longer be useful, I have to request that the Maharaja will grant me an escort to conduct me to Poona.

**No. 120**—General Wellesley informs Stuart about the threatened march of Sindhia from Burhanpur towards Poona, and suggests that under the circumstances Stuart might cross the Tungabhadra.

FROM—A. WELLESLEY,

TO—J. STUART.

*Camp at Panowullah, 3rd May 1803.*

I received last night your letters of the 12th and 24th ; the former had gone to Madras by mistake.

I inclose a copy of a letter from Colonel Collins to the Governor General, of the 25th April, which contains some information of importance. Colonel Collins' private letter to me contained nothing but the account of Holkar's movement upon Aurungabad, of which I heretofore informed you. I likewise inclose an extract of a letter from Colonel Close, in which he gives his opinion of the measures to be pursued, if it should be true that Sindhia is about to march from Burhanpur.

It is my opinion that it is by no means certain that Sindhia will advance to Poona, and that is most probable that the report of his intended march has been circulated for the purpose of intimidating us, or the Nizam ; however, it is as well to be prepared with a consideration of the measures to be adopted in case Sindhia should advance to Poona.

I have no doubt whatever but that the force which will be here when the Peshwa shall arrive, will be more than equal to contend with his, of which I inclose you an account ; I also am of opinion that Colonel Stevenson's force, with the Nizam's army, are fully equal to the defence of the Nizam's country against either Holkar or Sindhia. If both should unite in an attack on the Nizam's country, Colonel Stevenson and I must co-operate or join in the defence of it, leaving at Poona a sufficient force for the protection of the Peshwa's person against straggling parties ; on the other hand if both should approach Poona, Colonel Stevenson must come nearer to me.

You will probably be desirous that I should give my opinion regarding Lieutenant-Colonel Close's proposal contained in the inclosed paragraph of his letter. In the event of Sindhia's advance, our military position ought to be such as to give confidence to those connected with us, and to shew the wavering, and our enemies, that we are really in strength. It would not answer to move at once to Hyderabad, as you would thereby leave open the Raja of Mysore's country, and the Company's ; and would remove the check upon the Southern Jagirdars. But if you were to cross the Tungabhadra and move to Mudgal, you would be nearer the scene



of action at Poona within 12 or 14 marches from Hyderabad, and close upon the Southern Jagirdars. You would also be in a better situation to defend the Company's frontier.

In six weeks from this time the rivers which rise in the Western Ghats will fill. I know that native armies are then very incapable of carrying on their operations, and you will be so near the Krishna, that you can decide whether you will cross it, and at once carry your decision into execution.

We are upon very good terms with those of the Southern Jagirdars who are with us. I have prevailed upon Appa Sahib to remain here till the Peshwa will arrive; and in consequence of a letter from Colonel Close, in which he communicates the desire of the Peshwa that I would distribute 30,000 rupees among his officers who may be most distressed for money, to be repaid on His Highness's arrival at Poona, I have advanced 20,000 rupees, at two different times, to Gokhla. He also appears in very good temper. It is very probable, however, that in case Sindhia should advance towards Poona, the Jagirdars will become at best neutral, and will return to the southward, under various pretences; and if there should be nothing to check their enterprizes, their neutrality would very soon degenerate into enmity.

I have opened a communication with Amrit Rao, and he has a vakil in this camp. I have written to him to recommend that he should separate himself from the Peshwa's enemies, and that he should formally declare that he had done so. In that case, hopes are held out to him that measures will be taken to reconcile him to his brother, according to his request through his vakil, to that purport.

The Ra'a of Berar is certainly not dead.

I am getting on well in the repair or rather reconstruction of the carriages.

I have called upon Mr. Duncan for a *lakh* of pagodas which, I believe, I shall receive. I will write to the Adjutant General on this subject as soon as I am certain that I shall get the money. I shall then have money sufficient to go on to the end of July; but I think it will be as well in the present times always to have two months' pay in hand.

**No. 120A—Enclosure.**

*Extract of a Letter from Colonel Close; dated Panvel, 2nd May 1803.*

If Sindhia moves on the 6th instant, as he threatens, he may reach Poona in 14 or 15 marches, and be in time to cross the Godavari before

the river swells; and as his intentions cannot be friendly, and Holkar's are already hostile, I conceive that it occurs forcibly for consideration at this crisis, whether General Stuart should not move on with all expedition towards Hyderabad for the purpose of protection of that neighbourhood, and allowing Colonel Stevenson's force to join yours, or act in concert with you, should Sindhia really cross the Godavari with a view to obstruct our alliance with the Peshwa. On this question I shall say no more at present.

**No. 121**—Collins informs the Governor General about Sindhia's movements and adds that he would accompany the last in his march to Poona if instructed to that effect.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Burhanpur, 4th May 1803.*

I have the honour to forward a translate and copy of Daulat Rao Sindhia's reply to my letter under date the 2nd instant.

I know not whether the road from Badouly to Poona, be short and easy, as the Maharaja asserts, but it certainly is not the usual route from thence. However, should Sindhia really intend to proceed to Poona, according to his positive assurance, I shall not fail to accompany him thither, conformably to the orders of Your Excellency.

Dau'at Rao Sindhia marched five kos today, and it is my intention to follow him early tomorrow morning. But I much fear I shall be under the necessity of leaving several of our sick in the city of Burhanpur, as I have not, as yet, been able to engage either bearers, coolies or hackeries, on any terms whatever.

**No. 121A**—Enclosure.

*Translation of Daulat Rao Sindhia's reply to J. Collins' letter sent to Sindhia on 2nd May 1803. Received at 11 p.m. on 3rd May 1803.*

Your letter in reply to my note (here the Maharaja recapitulates the substance of Colonel Collins' letter) I have received, and understand its contents.

My friend ! I shall positively go to Poona, and the route of Badowli being short and easy, I have, therefore, chosen it. At that place I shall have an interview with Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, and then pursue my journey to Poona, accompanied by the Raja.

It is proper that my friend should march with me, as I am desirous of his company, which will afford me great pleasure.

**No. 122**—Bhonsla informs Azim-ul-Umra about his own plans to bring about a reconciliation between Sindhia and Holkar, and how he further hopes to settle the affairs of the Peshwa.

FROM—RAJA RAGHUJI BHONSLA,

TO—AZIM-UL-UMRAH.

*4th May 1803.*

Previously to this, a friendly letter respecting the departure of my ministers, Shridhar Pandit and Krishna Rao Chitnavis, from Poona, and the dismissal of the respectable Kashi Rao Ramchandrar, and requesting the commands of the Resplendent Presence, and desiring to be informed of the secret views and wishes of that founder of the basis regarding future council and arrangements, was written by the pen of amity. It is probable that its contents having become the medium of intelligence and information, the dismissal of the aforesaid respectable person will already have been granted.

At this time, on the 18th Ziqad (13th March) the aforesaid ministers arrived in safety at Nagpur, and they were accompanied by Narain Rao Vaidya on the part of Rao Pandit Pradhan Baji Rao, and by Amrit Rao, the vakil of Jaswant Rao Holkar, who reached this place on the same day. On the 25th of the same month also (March 20th) Jadu Rao Bhaskar, the plenipotentiary minister of Daulat Rao Sindhia, arrived, and had an interview with me ; and in our public and private meetings they had repeatedly observed, in enumerating the circumstances which were entrusted to their verbal communication, that the causes of their mutual enmity and difference are perfectly evident, and do not require a particular detail. That by the grace of God, their respective masters regard me to be as venerable and illustrious as their parents, and that they conceive

me to be wise and thoroughly informed on all matters, and on all occasions, and as united in the prosperity and adversity of the state of Rao Pandit Pradhan ; adverting to which, they never would depart from that line of policy and counsel which I might devise for the removal and eradication of their mutual enmity and dissatisfaction, and for the establishment of a plan for the adjustment of the state and government of Rao Pandit Pradhan.

In a similar manner also my ministers Shridhar Pandit and Kashi Rao Chitnavis, have represented to me the secrets of the mind of Jaswant Rao Holkar ; in consequence of which, after ascertaining their objects and intentions, and having adjusted a plan for the union of Sindhia and Holkar, I deputed Krishna Rao Ramchandrar and Vyankat Rao the vakil, to Holkar, and in compliance with the earnest solicitation and desire of Daulat Rao Sindhia and the urgent entreaties of Jadu Rao Bhaskar, my entering my tents has been settled for the 23rd of Zilhijja (16th April).

After a meeting shall have taken place and an arrangement for the reconciliation and union between Sindhia and Holkar have been effected a specific plan for the adjustment of the state and government of Rao Pandit Pradhan, such as the honour and integrity of the Raja indispensably call for, and is calculated for the prosperity of the country and cities, and the happiness of mankind at large, shall, with a due attention to the complexion of the times, be maturely devised and executed.

Of this, communication shall assuredly be made by the pen of affection ; and as the permanence and settlement of the Peshwaship is desired and intended by the fragrant mind of the Resplendent Presence, and by that founder of the basis, in consideration of the ancient alliance and lasting ties ; and as in fact the knowledge of this circumstance is regarded as the cause of stability to the several states, and the source of boundless advantage, to communicate particularly advice and council on such a subject is a proof of our intimate union and harmony.

Other circumstances will become known to you by the verbal representations of the respectable Mahadev Rao, and Krishna Rao Ramchandrar, and you will augment the happiness of my heart, the seat of friendship, by the transmission of letters communicating your welfare, and the state of your counsels.

*N.B.*—A letter, precisely of the same tenor and date as the above, from the Raja of Berar's ministers Shridhar Pandit and Kashi Rao Chitnavis to Azim-ul-umra.

**No. 123**—Edmonstone sends to Collins notes of the detailed instructions of the Governor General regarding the policy to be followed towards Sindhia in the actual crisis of affairs.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
OF INDIA,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 5th May 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to transmit to you the enclosed notes which are intended to form the basis of detailed instructions for the regulation of your conduct in the actual crisis of affairs.

Those instructions will be prepared and transmitted to you at the earliest practicable period of time. In the meanwhile His Excellency directs you to act under the authority of the enclosed document which your knowledge and discernment will enable you to apply to actual circumstances in the manner best calculated to promote the views and interests of the British Government.

**No. 123A**—Notes of instructions to Collins from the Governor General, being the enclosure to the above.

The necessity of Daulat Rao Sindhia's immediately crossing the Narbada and returning to Hindustan to be fully stated.

The real object of a resolution on the part of Sindhia to proceed to Poona or to remain south of the Narbada can on'y be to subvert the arrangement between the British Government and the Peshwa and to re-establish his own ascendancy in the government of Poona. The following arguments and observations to be stated to Daulat Rao Sindhia for the purpose of preventing his proceeding to Poona.

1. Treaty of Bassein to be fully communicated to Sindhia without a moment of delay and explained to Sindhia. A copy of the treaty to be given to him if desired.

2. The Peshwa possessed of full right to avail himself of the aid of the British power for his restoration and to contract his present engagements with that power independently of the consent of the feudal Chiefs of the Maratha Empire.

3. Daulat Rao Sindhia and the other chiefs were unable to afford the Peshwa the necessary aid for the restoration of his authority after the success of the rebellion of Holkar, and the assistance which the Peshwa solicited and has received from us was the only possible mode of recovering his authority.

4. The Treaty of Bassein not only offers no injury to the independence of the hereditary Maratha Chiefs but expressly provides additional security for it.

5. Daulat Rao Sindhia himself invited the co-operation of the British power for the purpose of restoring the Peshwa.

6. Daulat Rao Sindhia's own power and dominions have been saved from ruin by the interference of the British power, which has checked the progress of Holkar's arms.

7. Daulat Rao Sindhia has admitted the expediency and wisdom of our engagements with the Peshwa and has formally disavowed any intention of obstructing the completion of the arrangements.

8. Under all these circumstances we have a right to expect that Daulat Rao Sindhia shall not adopt any measures which we deem to be calculated to impede the accomplishment of that arrangement unless such measures be absolutely necessary for Daulat Rao Sindhia's security.

9. Daulat Rao Sindhia's march to Poona, or his continuance south of the Narbada can have no other view than to disturb our arrangements with the Peshwa ; neither Sindhia's march to Poona, nor his continuance to the south of the Narbada is necessary to his security.

10. An attempt on the part of any power to oppose or counteract that which another power is strictly authorized by the law of nations to perform, may justly be considered as an act of hostility.

11. In communicating the whole of the Treaty of Bassein to Daulat Rao Sindhia point out to him particularly that it provides against any molestation being offered to his government unless he should place himself in the situation of an enemy to the Peshwa, or to the British Government.

12. Daulat Rao Sindhia must, therefore, retire, or must expect to expose to hazard all the advantages which the treaty offers to him.

13. If Daulat Rao Sindhia should be disposed to accede to the treaty as a contracting party, the British Government is ready to negotiate the terms with him.

14. The British Government will not be offended if Daulat Rao Sindhia should object to acceding to the treaty as a contracting party.

He is at liberty to remain, if he thinks fit, utterly unconnected with us. But the disadvantages of such a separation to him are evident.

15. We cannot, however, suffer him in any degree to obstruct the execution or operation of the treaty with the Peshwa, and the Governor General is resolved not to admit the slightest opposition on the part of any power to the execution of a treaty founded on principles of undeniable justice, equity and moderation.

16. Daulat Rao Sindhia must, therefore, instantly explain himself without reserve and must return into his own dominions north of the Narbada. The first pledge required of his amicable intentions, even if he should choose to accede to the treaty, is that he should immediately cross the Narbada.

17. Offer to arbitrate any demands Daulat Rao Sindhia may have on the Peshwa or on Holkar.

18. Offer a subsidiary force and guarantee.

19. Positive declaration of friendship and of a determination to abstain from any attempt whatever upon the independence of Daulat Rao Sindhia, unless he should provoke hostility.

20. Inform Sindhia that his military operations conducted in opposition to our remonstrances will compel measures of precaution on our part, and on every boundary of his dominions, and that certain intelligence of his accession to any confederacy against the British power will produce immediate hostility on all parts of his frontier, and will justify the destruction of his power.

21. Inform Sindhia that similar representations have been addressed to the Raja of Berar for whom the British Government feels an equal regard with an equal resolution to anticipate any sinister project by promptitude and alacrity.

22. Intelligence from various quarters has excited a just apprehension that negotiations have been commenced between the Raja of Berar and Sindhia of a nature injurious to the connection established between the Peshwa and the British Government. Sindhia must be required to state explicitly the nature of his negotiations with the Raja of Berar and the propositions of that Chief.

23. The same requisition to be urged respecting the propositions of Holkar to Sindhia and the recent negotiations which have passed those Chiefs.

24. Inform Sindhia that any attack upon the territories of His Highness the Nizam will be considered as an act of hostility against the British Government.

**No. 124**—Collins informs the Governor General how an Indian company of his escort refused to proceed towards Poona without increase in their pay, and how the punishment of their ringleader prevented a serious general mutiny among his sepoy.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Shahpur, 5th May 1803.*

I have the honour to apprise Your Excellency, that I moved ground this morning, and am now encamped within two miles of the tents of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

It is with real concern I have to state the following disagreeable occurrence for the information of Your Lordship.

Yesterday afternoon a company of the 14th native Regiment, which forms part of my escort, refused to proceed towards Poona without an augmentation of their pay. Captain Lyons instantly seized the sepoy, Pancham Singh, who had been commissioned to make this insolent declaration; on which all the sepoy of this company laid down their arms saying that they, also, considered themselves as prisoners.

Captain Lyons immediately assembled the whole of the escort on parade, and brought the spokesman who, evidently, was the ringleader, a drummer, held court-martial, which sentenced the delinquent to receive five hundred lashes, to be dismissed from the honourable Company's service to be drummed out of our camp.

The foregoing sentence was carried into instant execution, and Captain Lyons addressed a very firm sensible remonstrance to the sepoy who returned to their duty without further murmur, seemingly concerned for very unmilitary behaviour. Possessed with the judicious and spirited conduct Captain Lyons prevented a general serious mutiny on this occasion.

Ever since my arrival to this court, I have, as far as was practicable, endeavoured to prevent all sort of communication between the sepoy of the honourable Company, and the troops of Daulat Rao Sindhia, chiefly with a view to precluding all disagreements. But no precaution whatever could prevent our soldiers from obtaining information of the mutinies, which so frequently occur in the army of the Maharaja; nor can they be ignorant that Sindhia's sepoy-battalions confine their European officers, as often as they have any point to carry; and hence I am not without some apprehension that the sepoy of my escort may imbibe ideas,



regarding their own power, of a dangerous tendency, and may also disseminate the same when they rejoin their respective regiments.

I have been under the necessity of leaving seventeen of our sick sepoys in the city of Burhanpur, as no carriage of any kind could be procured for them, and Doctor Wilson reports that these men are altogether incapable of proceeding on foot.

**No. 125**—General Wellesley is anxious to know Stuart's determination regarding his future positions.

FROM—A. WELLESLEY,

TO—J. STUART.

*Camp, 10th May 1803.*

Since I wrote you this morning, another dispatch, No. 248, has been received from Colonel Collins, a copy of which I enclose; I do not know where Badowly is; it is very obvious that they are afraid of allowing Colonel Collins to quit Sindhia's camp, although it is difficult to say what is their object.

Colonel Close intends to press the Peshwa to desire Sindhia not to advance to Poona, and I think that I ought to write him a letter to say that that is the Peshwa's wish, and that it is proper that it should be complied with.

Before I determine upon this point, however, I shall see what the Peshwa will write. I am very anxious to know your determination regarding your future positions.

**No. 126**—General Wellesley acquaints Stuart with the possibility of Sindhia invading the territories of Hyderabad, and goes on to put down his own plans to be pursued after the entry of the Peshwa in Poona.

FROM—A. WELLESLEY,

TO—J. STUART.

*Camp at Chinchwad, 10th May 1803.*

I have the honour to enclose the copy of a dispatch, No. 247 of the 2nd instant, from Colonel Collins. The purport of the Persian letter to the Governor General was an assertion of Sindhia's claim to chauth from the Nizam, and a determination to support it. The paragraph to which

Colonel Collins objects, is one in which Sindhia objects to the interference of the British Government in the dispute between him and the Nizam about chauth.

I hope that Colonel Collins will have been induced to remain in Sindhia's camp, and think that he was rather hasty in his determination to withdraw, and that by withdrawing on the grounds of Sindhia's altering the direction of his march, he has done no good. Sindhia's ministers will still go on negotiating with Colonel Collins' native agents, and they will persuade their master that the absence of the Colonel from his camp is not a novel occurrence, and is not a sign of war. Thus we shall lose all the advantages of the check upon them of Colonel Collins' presence, and of his influence over Sindhia; and by the manner in which he has withdrawn, he has not given Sindhia any reason to fear the commencement of hostilities with the Company.

The Peshwa has not yet gone into Poona; but business goes on here, and His Highness is making the necessary arrangements of his government, and appointing his ministers, and appears determined to adhere to his treaty with the Company, and to carry into effect the objects of the alliance.

We do not yet know that Sindhia has marched; but as soon as the Peshwa goes into Poona, and that Colonel Murray arrives with a detachment of the Bombay army, I propose to move towards the Nizam's frontier, in order to be rather nearer to Colonel Stevenson.

The number of the loyalist Sardars is increasing. I have received messages from two or three this morning to desire to send vakils to me to intercede for them with the Peshwa.

This moment is critical; the rivers will fill in about a month, and it appears to me that Sindhia, if he intends hostilities, has marched in this hurry either to establish himself in some post of consequence, or to make a dash at Hyderabad, so as to get back across the Godavari before the river will fill. Colonel Stevenson is well placed to impede this operation, and I have desired him to have a watchful eye upon the proceedings to the northward, and march at once on Hyderabad if he should find that they have views upon that place; but I do not imagine that any of those chiefs would like to incur the risk of the consequences of their being to the southward of the Godavari when that river may fill. A few days will put that place in safety; as, after the period at which the Godavari will fill, they will not choose to venture across that river.

We are all anxious to receive a communication of your sentiments upon the subject of Colonel Collins' former dispatch, announcing Sindhia's intention to march on the 6th. Major Malcolm is unwell, and is gone to Poona.

**No. 127**—Bhonsla is acquainted with the circumstances under which the Treaty of Bassein was concluded. He is further informed that the English are determined to enforce the provisions of the treaty, and any effort to oppose them will be considered an act of hostility.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—RAJA RAGHUJI BHONSLA.

*Fort William, 13th May 1803.*

The intimate friendship and alliance which have long subsisted between the British Government and the state of Berar, induce me to communicate to you, without reserve, the engagements recently concluded between the Honourable Company and His Highness the Peshwa; to explain to you the principles on which those engagements are founded; and to demonstrate to you that the Treaty of Bassein is formed with a sincere regard for the integrity of the Maratha Empire, and for the security of the separate rights and privileges of the constituent branches of that respectable power.

When His Highness the Peshwa was compelled by the violence and usurpation of Jaswant Rao Holkar to abandon the seat of government at Poona, and to retire into the Konkan, His Highness earnestly solicited the aid of the British power for the protection of his person against the outrages of his rebellious subjects, and for the restoration of his just authority in the Maratha State. At the same time Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, alarmed at the successful progress of Jaswant Rao Holkar's rebellion, solicited the cooperation of the British arms for the accomplishment of the same important object. His Highness the Peshwa and Daulat Rao Sindhia were sensible that the active interposition of the British power in that arduous crisis of affairs afforded the only means of preserving the fabric of the Maratha Empire from disorder and confusion.

The British Government entertained a sincere disposition to fulfil the obligations of friendship towards His Highness the Peshwa in the hour of adversity, and an anxious solicitude to preserve the Maratha Empire from a condition of anarchy, which must have proved highly dangerous to all the contiguous states of India; I, therefore, readily consented to the united wishes of the Peshwa and Daulat Rao Sindhia; and his Highness the Peshwa accordingly proceeded under the protection of the British power to Bassein. His Highness subsequently concluded engagements with the British Government on principles calculated to secure the stability of his just authority in the Maratha Empire, the

rights and privileges of the several subordinate chieftains of that empire, and the future tranquillity and prosperity of the state.

For the accomplishment of this arrangement, a considerable detachment of British troops, which had been stationed on the frontier of Mysore with a view to the protection and defence of the British dominions, was directed to march from the frontier of Mysore to Poona ; and the British subsidiary force serving with His Highness the Nizam, joined by a considerable body of the Nizam's force, was assembled on the frontier of the Nizam's dominions for the same purpose ; at the same time amicable remonstrances were addressed to Jaswant Rao Holkar, and assurances were conveyed to him by the British Resident at Poona, of the sincere disposition of the British Government to mediate between him and the Peshwa and Daulat Rao Sindhia, on just and reasonable terms, with the consent and knowledge of all parties.

The object of these proceedings was to restore order and tranquillity, and to conciliate the concurrence of the contending chiefs on such a system of mutual justice, reason, and moderation, as might secure the continuance of peace.

These measures have induced Jaswant Rao Holkar to withdraw his troops from the city of Poona, and have removed every obstacle to the return of His Highness the Peshwa to his capital in the full exercise of his authority. The attention of the British Government will now be directed to the efficient accomplishment of the arrangements concluded by the Treaty of Bassein. For your information, with regard to the engagements contracted by His Highness the Peshwa, I transmit to you inclosed a copy of the Treaty of Bassein, containing every article and stipulation of the engagement. This explicit communication will afford you an additional proof of my friendship and respect ; you will be enabled by the copy of the treaty and by this letter, to ascertain the full extent of all my views and intention with regard to the Maratha power.

An examination of the enclosed copy of the treaty will demonstrate the justice, moderation, and honourable policy of that engagement ; and a review of the late transactions in the Maratha Empire will be sufficient to convince you that the interposition of the aid of the British Government for the restoration of His Highness the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona, far from having a tendency to subvert the order of the Maratha State, afforded the only means of averting confusion, and of providing for the future security and tranquillity of every branch of the Maratha power.

Experience has already manifested the inability of Daulat Rao Sindhia to resist the attacks of Jaswant Rao Holkar ; and the views of Jaswant Rao Holkar have been demonstrated by his attempt to destroy the

Peshwa's Government, and to assume the entire authority of the Maratha Empire.

Great danger must have menaced the several states under such circumstances. From the hazard of this calamity the Maratha Empire has been preserved by the seasonable interposition of the British Government, which has provided for the restoration and stability of the Peshwa's just authority, and has afforded additional security for the legitimate and separate rights of the feudatory chieftains of the empire. Under the Treaty of Bassein (particularly by the 9th article) those chieftains are effectually protected against any molestation either on the part of His Highness the Peshwa, or of the British Government, unless any chief should place himself in the condition of public enemy to the state; at the same time an option is afforded to all the principal chieftains of participating in the benefits of the defensive alliance. The constitution of the Maratha State, and the authority of various precedents, have established the independent right of His Highness the Peshwa to contract with foreign powers all such engagements as shall not affect the separate rights and interests of his feudatory chieftains. That right is inherent in the supreme executive authority of the Maratha State.

Under these circumstance, therefore, I deem it necessary to signify to you my intention of establishing the provisions of the treaty now concluded with His Highness the Peshwa, and attempt on the part of any state or power to obstruct the operation of that treaty, must be deemed an act of hostility against the combined interests of the Peshwa and the British Government.

My objects are to secure the British dominions and those of our ally, the Nizam, from the dangers of contiguous anarchy and confusion; to fulfil the duties of friendship towards our ally the Peshwa; and to provide at the same time for the safety of the several branches of the Maratha Empire, without disturbing the constitutional form of the state, and without affecting the legitimate independence of its feudatory chieftains. This course of policy must tend to strengthen the bonds of amity and alliance with the state of Berar, as well as with every other branch of the Maratha power.

If a just regard to the real interests and prosperity of your government should dispose you to conclude defensive engagements with the honourable Company, similar to those which have been contracted by His Highness the Peshwa, I shall be ready to enter into a negotiation with you for that purpose. The ties of friendship, however, will not be relaxed by any declaration of your disposition to remain unconnected with the powers now allied by the Treaties of Hyderabad and Bassein; whatever may be your determination with regard to this part of my present proposal, I shall

continue to maintain, with cordial solicitude, the relations of amity and peace which have subsisted between the British Government and the State of Berar.

It has been reported to me that you have viewed the conduct of the British Government, in the restoration of the Peshwa, with jealousy and suspicion, and that you are assiduously employed in endeavouring to form a confederacy for the purpose of frustrating the beneficial operation of the Treaty of Bassein.

The acknowledged prudence and discretion of your character, your wisdom and experience, your approved friendship, combined with the conscious sense of my just regard for your rights and independence, preclude any suspicion in my mind of your intentions and conduct. I, therefore, conclude that you will continue to regard the British power with that confidence and esteem which our uniform conduct towards you justly demands.

To this candid declaration of my sentiments, it may however be proper to add a distinct view of my future intentions; any military preparations on your part, any combination of your power with that of any other state, directed to the subversion of the arrangement lately concluded with the Peshwa, will be followed by corresponding measures of precaution and security on the part of the British Government.

Unavoidable circumstances have hitherto prevented the departure of Mr. Webbe, whom I have selected to be the representative of this government at your Court. Mr. Webbe, however, will proceed to Nagpur, and on his arrival will be prepared to enter upon the discussion of all questions depending between you and the British Government.

In the meanwhile I trust that you will return a speedy and amicable reply to this friendly letter.

**No. 128**—Collins informs the Governor General about Mirza Bakar's interview with Balaji Kunjar and gives in detail the information thus gathered from him.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Edalabad, 13th May 1803.*

Mirza Bakar Khan waited on Bala Kunjar yesterday, conformably to the intimation I had the honour to give Your Excellency in my letter of the 12th instant.

After the usual compliments the Mirza informed this wakil that Daulat Rao Sindhia having promised to give an answer to certain propositions, which I had submitted to his consideration, by order of Your Excellency, after conversing with him (Bala Kunjar) on the objects of his mission, I was, in consequence, very anxious to learn the extent of the communications which he had made to this court, respecting the treaty lately concluded at Bassein.

Bala Kunjar replied that he had been instructed by His Highness the Peshwa to inform me, without reserve, of all his transactions with Sindhia and with his ministers, and that he should have great pleasure in so doing. He then proceeded to state, that on his arrival at this court he soon discovered that Ambaji Ingle had put evil designs into the head of the Maharaja and was the principal person in causing a change of measures at this Durbar. That influenced by Ambaji's suggestions Sindhia had indirectly reproached him (Bala Kunjar) on account of the engagements which the Peshwa had lately contracted with the British Government. In answer to which, he (Bala Kunjar) had observed that His Highness had been driven from his capital by the violence of one of his servants, and as Sindhia had delayed four months marching to the relief of the Peshwa, His Highness was reduced to the necessity of seeking the protection of the English for the preservation of his life and of his honour.

Bala then expressed his surprise to Sindhia that this Durbar should have negotiated a peace with Jaswant Rao Holkar ; since, formerly, when His Highness the Peshwa had proposed his mediation for the purpose of accommodating all differences between the Maharaja and Holkar, he (Sindhia) had declined the offer, and that, in fact, it was by espousing the cause of the Maharaja that the Peshwa had recently suffered both defeat and disgrace. Therefore, it would be proper, and prudent in this court, to act in concert with the English, in order to restore the authority of the head of the Empire in opposition to the evil designs of an ungrateful servant.

Bala Kunjar apprized Mirza Bakar that Daulat Rao Sindhia had endeavoured to obtain from him information regarding the articles of the Treaty of Bassein, but that he had plainly told the Maharaja he should enter into no explanation on this subject until the return of Jadu Rao Bhau to this Durbar.

Bala Kunjar says, he shall in the first place, ascertain the real designs of Sindhia and of his ministers, and that having so done he will then demand of the Maharaja whether it be his intention to act conformably to the engagements which the head of the Maratha Empire had entered into with the English. That should Sindhia promise obedience to His Highness the Peshwa in the present instance, he would disclose the articles

of the new treaty, but in the event of a refusal, on the part of the Maharaja, to acquiesce in those engagements, he (Bala Kunjar ) would immediately solicit permission to leave this court.

This vakil has assured Mirza Bakar that Ambaji had sworn to act in concert with him, and to support all his views. Bala Kunjar also seems confident that he shall be able to detach Jadu Rao and the Berar Raja from the disaffected party, and declares that His Highness Baji Rao would soon deprive Daulat Rao Sindhia of the assistance of all the Maratha Sardars in his service should that Chieftain attempt to obstruct the completion of the engagements concluded between the head of the Empire and the British Government.

As Daulat Rao Sindhia and his ministers have now had several conferences with Bala Kunjar, I shall, in compliance with his suggestion, intimate to the Maharaja a wish that the vakil of His Highness the Peshwa should be allowed to pay me a visit in order that I might be enabled to show him that respect, and attention to which he was entitled as agent on the part of the head of the Maratha Empire.

**No. 129**—Stuart acquaints Lord Clive with his own proposals regarding the movement of armies and asks for instructions relating to the measures to be adopted by the army if the Nizam's dominions are threatened.

**FROM—J. STUART,**

**TO—LORD CLIVE.**

*Camp at Sunkunnalli, 14th May 1803.*

I have the honour of forwarding to Your Lordship a copy of a letter and enclosures, which I have received from the honourable General Wellesley.

The speedy settlement of Maratha affairs is certainly, under our present circumstance, an object of the first importance to Government. The appearance, in a state of readiness to act, of the greatest force that can be collected, will contribute more than anything else to the fulfilment of that object, by overawing the powers that might be disposed to obstruct its accomplishment, and by confirming in our interest those who appear to be attached to our cause. The troops at present in advance, although probably equal to the defeat of any army that is likely to be opposed to them, are not perhaps sufficiently numerous to make that impression on the neighbouring powers which appears to be requisite to deter them from adopting a line of policy hostile to the arrangements of the treaty lately concluded with the Peshwa. The army on the Tungabhadra is too remote from the scene of action to produce any material effect upon the



proceedings of those powers, and, in its present position, is useful rather in securing the internal tranquillity of the Company's territories, than in affording any efficacious support to the measures of the advanced detachments. The march of the grand army into the Doab, and eventually to the Krishna, would bring it sufficiently near to the scene of action to produce a very considerable influence on the measures of the parties that may be expected to interfere in the present arrangements at Poona. The army, in the advanced situation, would afford protection to the Nizam's dominions, overawe the Southern Maratha Jagirdars, and cover the Company's territories better, by being enabled to interrupt with more facility the march of any body that might attempt to penetrate into them. The objections to this movement of the army are, that it diminishes the internal security of the Company's dominions, and is calculated to impress the people with a disadvantageous opinion of the state of affairs in advance. But the continuance of the army in the Doab, contiguous to the frontier, will check every disposition, among the people to resist the authority of government, and the apparent object of crossing the Tungabhadra, that of obtaining forage in the Nizam's country before the river swells, may conceal the real design of that movement. I propose, in the course of five or six days, to cross the river at Kampli, below the ruins of Vijayanagar, to proceed by easy marches to Mudgal, and thence to a position on the Krishna, should that measure appear necessary. I shall be anxious to receive Your Lordship's sentiments regarding the expediency of the above movements, and to be favoured with Your Lordship's instructions respecting the measure to be adopted by this army in the event of any serious dangers being threatened to His Highness the Nizam's dominions. If Your Lordship shall judge it requisite, in consequence of a probability that the interior tranquillity of the country is likely to be disturbed, or in consequence of the expected armaments which we have reason to look for coming out to this country from France, that the army should return to the frontier, it can repossess the Tungabhadra before the river fills, and resume its present position.

I have made a provision of boats for the passage of this river and the Krishna, when they fill. It was my original intention, should the state of affairs require the advance of this army, to cross the Tungabhadra below its junction with rivers of the Doab, and to march by a central route well adapted for a movement to either flank. I then gave orders for the construction of basket boats for the passage of those rivers. A separate line of communication, provided with boats, has been established from Harihar to Miraj, on the route by which General Wellesley advanced.

P.S.—While the army remains in this quarter, letters addressed to camp, by way of Bellary, will be received a day sooner than by the usual Tuppal.

**No. 130**—Stuart points out the necessity of moving the British army to the Krishna river, specially in view of the serious illness of the Nizam.

FROM—J. STUART,

TO—LORD CLIVE.

*Camp at Joak, 17th May 1803.*

I have the honour of forwarding to Your Lordship copies of dispatches under date the 27th and 10th instant, which I this day received from the honourable Major General Wellesley.

In a letter from Major Kirkpatrick, of the 13th instant, which arrived this day by express, I have been informed of the extremely dangerous state of health of His Highness the Nizam at that time. This circumstance renders it still more necessary for the army to proceed to the Krishna, as it will be better able, in that advanced situation, to adopt with promptitude such measures as may be necessary to secure the internal tranquillity of the Nizam's dominions, should His Highness's death take place, or to protect them from foreign invasion if Sindhia attempts to carry into execution the plan which General Wellesley supposes that he meditates. On these points, I trust that I shall soon have the honour to receive Your Lordship's sentiments.

**No. 131**—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the details of his interview with Balaji Kunjar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Ghorasgaon, 17th May 1803.*

Daulat Rao Sindhia having readily assented to Balaji Kunjar's paying me a visit, that wakil waited on me this morning and was received with marked distinction on my part.

Balaji gave me the same assurances as he had before made to Mirza Bakar Khan, and which I did myself the honour of communicating to Your Excellency in my letter of the 13th instant. He seems confident of success in his endeavours to dissolve the present confederacy and is the more sanguine in his expectations on this head, in consequence of a letter which he lately received from Jadu Rao Bhau containing the most explicit declaration of that minister's intention to act, in every respect, conformably to the wishes of Balaji Kunjar.

Balaji expressed himself highly satisfied with the arguments I had urged in my several conferences with the Maharaja and his minister, the most material of which he repeated to me and I must confess I was both pleased and surprised to find this Durbar has acted with candour in its statement of those conferences.

Jadu Rao Bhau is expected to arrive here in three days. Balaji Kunjar is decidedly of opinion that neither he, nor I, should take any steps, in relation to the objects of our respective missions, until the return of that minister to this court.

I understand Raghuji Bhonsla is arrived with his army at Amraoti. It is now uncertain whether the interview between this Chieftain and Daulat Rao Sindhia will take place at Badouli or at Malkapur. The latter is a city distant about six *kos* from hence, subject to the joint authority of His Highness the Nizam and of the Berar Raja.

I suggested to Balaji Kunjar that as Sindhia has expressed an intention of marching to Poona with all his forces, it might be proper in him, as *vakil* on the part of His Highness the Peshwa, to mention to the Maharaja that if it were his design to repair to the capital of His Highness, it would be altogether unnecessary for him to take on this occasion more than 2,000 horses and one or two battalions of sepoys as an escort merely. Balaji assured me that the same idea had occurred to him and that it was his intention to speak to Sindhia on this subject in terms similar to those I had proposed.

In consequence of the measures adopted by the honourable General Wellesley, for the purpose of checking depredations of Jaswant Rao Holkar in the territory of His Highness the Nizam, the former Chieftain has retired to some distance from Aurangabad and I am informed that he means to pursue his march to Chandor (a city appertaining to the Holkar family) with the least possible delay.

**No. 132**—Collins informs Close about the complaint filed on behalf of Sindhia for certain acts of aggression committed on his territories by the English and the Nizam's troops.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Ghorasgaon, 18th May 1803.*

Daulat Rao Sindhia having preferred a remonstrance, through my agent Ganpat Rai, respecting certain acts of aggression committed on his

territory by the troops of the honourable Company, and of the Nawab Nizam, I do myself the honour to forward a copy and translate of Ganpat Rai's *arzi* on this subject, together with transcripts in English and Persian of my reply.

As the troops against whom this complaint has been made, are subject to the command of the honourable Major-General Arthur Wellesley, I should not trouble you on this occasion, were I authorized by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, to enter into an official correspondence with the honourable General.

**No. 132A—Enclosure.**

*Translate copy of an arzi from Ganpat Rai to Colonel John Collins,  
18th May 1803.*

The Maharaja desired me to observe to you, on his part, that it is probable you have received particular information of the plunder of the *kasba* of Shrigonda and the burning of the Maharaja's house by the troops of the Company and those of the Nizam. Since by the relations of friendship the affairs of the English, of the Nizam, and of the Maharaja are one and the same, since nothing of the nature of the present occurrence has ever yet happened on the part of any of those powers, and since an injury sustained by the Maharaja may in truth be considered as an injury suffered by the Company, it is probable that the circumstances in question may have taken place in the way of friendship.

**No. 132B—Enclosure.**

*Copy of the reply of Colonel J. Collins to Ganpat Rai, 18th May 1803.*

You will inform the Maharaja that I have received no information excepting from himself, relative to the plunder of the *kasba* of Shrigonda and the burning of his house, by the troops of the Company and of the Nizam, nor do I believe it possible that the forces of the Company could have had any share in those transactions, since I well know His Excellency the most noble the Governor General considers the Maharaja in the light of a friend, and consequently, would highly disapprove of such acts of aggression. Moreover, it is altogether inconsistent with the character and love of the British officers to suffer their troops to commit irregularities of that nature. However, for the gratification of the Maharaja, I shall immediately write to Colonel Close for an explanation on this subject, and doubt not but that his answer will prove perfectly satisfactory to this Durbar.

**No. 133**—Lord Clive requests the Governor General for instructions to guide his own conduct during the possible contingency of a war.

FROM—LORD CLIVE,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fort St. George, 19th May 1803.*

Your Excellency will have received the advices which have reached me at a later period of time from the western side of India, with respect to the possible course of policy which Jaswant Rao Holkar and Daulat Rao Sindhia may pursue in the present juncture of affairs, and I trust that I shall be furnished, with every practicable degree of expedition, with Your Excellency's instructions applicable to the supposed contingencies.

In the mean time, the despatches which I have received from His Excellency Lieutenant-General Stuart, and from the Resident at Hyderabad, have required me to issue such provisional orders for the disposal of the main army under the command of Lieutenant-General Stuart, as may be necessary for the safety of our troops, and the preservation of our interests, if events should arise of a nature not to admit the delay of a reference to Your Excellency.

I have the honour, therefore, of enclosing for Your Excellency's information, the copy of a despatch which I have received from the Commander-in-Chief, and of the instructions which I have in consequence deemed it to be my duty to transmit to Lieutenant-General Stuart.

I have also the honour to inform Your Excellency, that I have furnished copies of those instructions to the Residents at Poona and Hyderabad.

**No. 134**—Lord Clive fully approves of the proposal of Stuart to take up a position at Mudgal or on the bank of the Krishna, and adds that it would in no way affect the internal security of the British possessions in the Deccan, while it will check all possibilities of disturbances which might follow the expected death of the Nizam. He also states the two extreme contingencies in which Stuart should march northwards on his own initiative.

FROM—LORD CLIVE, THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS,

TO—LIEUT.-GEN. STUART, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

*Fort St. George, 19th May 1803.*

I have had the honour to receive your despatch of the 14th instant.

The movement of the army beyond the frontier of the Company's possessions is a measure which requires a careful examination of the

principles and of the spirit of the instructions stated in the Governor General's despatch of 2nd February last. If such a movement could be supposed to lessen the internal security of our own territories, it would be my duty to postpone it until I should receive the farther orders of His Excellency the Governor General on the events which have subsequently occurred. But as such a delay is incompatible with the immediate object of the movement, it remains with me to consider and determine the question in relation to the actual state of affairs.

During the absence of the troops in the field, entire tranquillity has been maintained in the northern, centre and southern divisions, upon the plan of arrangement recommended by Your Excellency. Appearances indicate no change of the present tranquillity of those provinces; and I do not foresee that the movement is calculated to produce any effect injurious to the continued tranquillity of those provinces.

The commotion in Malabar appears to be referable to causes which yet require to be ascertained; but as far as it may be connected with the distance of the army, it is manifest that the force in Malabar cannot be augmented by detachment from your army, nor will it be practicable for you in the present state of Maratha affairs to make any movement from your present position for the purpose of favouring the operations of the troops under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Montresor. In this respect, therefore, the object of crossing the Tungbhadra is immaterial to the immediate restoration of order in Malabar; and the actual state of the province does not in my judgment require any relaxation of the plans intended by the Governor General for the settlement of the affairs of the Maratha Empire.

In Mysore the government of His Highness the Raja is so well established that the force collected by the Diwan appears to be adequate to the maintenance of internal order unless His Highness's territories should be menaced by the Maratha Chiefs on the frontier.

In the ceded districts tranquillity prevails, and the vigorous means adopted for the introduction of the British Government in that province afford a well-grounded hope that the temporary absence of the army will create no cause of interruption of the present tranquil state of affairs. In this respect the position you propose to occupy at Mudgal or on the banks of the Krishna is equally well calculated to cover the ceded country against any foreign aggression; and to admit of your return if the internal state of the country should require an augmentation of the force now allotted for its protection.

We have yet received no certain information of the force destined to occupy the French settlements in India; but although reason exists for believing that the amount will be such as to require the constant

exercise of our vigilance, the state of the monsoon will in all probability prevent any immediate attempt on the western side of India, and as no part of the French troops has yet arrived on this coast, the position of your army cannot now be affected by considerations dependent on that event.

Upon the whole, therefore, it is my opinion that the internal tranquillity of the Company's possessions under this Presidency is less liable to disturbance from any other cause than from any change which may be produced in the disposition of Jagirdars in the southern parts of the Peshwa's dominions and in this respect, the position which you propose to occupy in the Doab, appears to be better calculated than your present position on the south bank of the Tungbhadra to restrain or to punish any aggression on the part of the Jagirdars.

Under this view of circumstances I am satisfied that the intended movement is at present entirely conformable to the fundamental principle stated by the Governor General with respect to the internal security of our possessions ; and as far as the movement relates to our allies, the Raja of Mysore and His Highness the Nizam, it is purely of a defensive nature and incapable of precipitating hostilities with the Maratha nation.

The considerations of a more active nature which are connected with the immediate object of our operations for obtaining a settlement of the affairs of the Maratha Empire, are stated with great force and accuracy by Major-General Wellesley and Your Excellency ; and the importance of those considerations has been heightened by the danger which now threatens the life of His Highness the Nizam. By the enclosed copy of a despatch from the Resident at Hyderabad, Your Excellency will perceive that danger to be extreme ; and in this respect, independently of the menacing posture supposed to have been taken by Jaswant Rao Holkar and by Daulat Rao Sindhia, I am of opinion that Your Excellency's movement into the Doab is a measure of prudence and expediency for the purpose of giving effect to the arrangements dependent on the decease of the Nizam.

On these several grounds, I concur in the reasons stated by Your Excellency and by the honourable Major-General Wellesley for the movement of your army into the Doab ; and I entirely approve Your Excellency's intention of taking up a position either at Mudgal or on the banks of the Krishna as circumstances may appear to render most advisable for the purposes of the movement.

The farther movement of the army under your command towards Hyderabad in the event of an invasion of the Nizam's dominions by Holkar or Sindhia, so entirely involves the means of preserving the internal security of the Company's territories, that I am persuaded I shall receive

His Excellency the Governor General's instructions on that subject, as soon as His Excellency shall have ascertained that it is the intention of those Chieftains or of either of them to invade the dominions of the Nizam, and I trust that I shall be enabled to convey to Your Excellency the Governor General's sentiments before it shall become necessary to determine the question proposed to me in Your Excellency's despatch.

It appears to be the opinion of the honourable Major-General Wellesley that if the supposed invasion should be conducted by Jaswant Rao Holkar alone, the force under the command of Colonel Stevenson will be adequate to the defence of the Nizam's territories; in this event, therefore, the British troops already in advance can require no aid from the main army; if Holkar and Sindhia should make an united attack, it is still probable in the opinion of Major-General Wellesley that the force under his own command joined by that under the command of Colonel Stevenson, will be sufficient to repel the invaders. It is probable, therefore, in these cases that your position in the Doab will be adequate to all the purposes suggested by the Resident at Poona or by Major-General Wellesley.

But if the force, to be eventually opposed to the British troops now in advance, should be of such extent as to endanger the detachments under the command of General Wellesley and Colonel Stevenson, it will become indispensably requisite for Your Excellency to advance without delay for the support of those corps.

From the complexion of Major Kirkpatrick's despatch, and from the force of the British detachment at Hyderabad, it is reasonable to expect that the arrangements in consequence of the expected demise of the Nizam will be carried into effect without opposition, or at least without confusion. But if affairs at Hyderabad should unexpectedly take such a course as to endanger our interests in the succession of Sikandar Jah, it will be a case to warrant and to require Your Excellency to march with the army to Hyderabad.

It is unnecessary to enter into a discussion of the probable views of Daulat Rao Sindhia or of Holkar, because it is impossible for me to found any instructions on the result of it for Your Excellency's guidance. Whatever may be the eventual policy of those Chiefs, it appears to me that the disposal of the army under Your Excellency's command must be governed by the principles stated in the Governor General's despatch of the 2nd of February regarding the internal security of our possessions, until I shall have received instructions applicable to the present state of affairs, with the exception of the following contingencies.

*1st.*—That the invasion of the Nizam's territories by an union of the Maratha Chiefs should be so powerful as to endanger the interests of



the British Government at Hyderabad at the expected demise of His Highness.

2nd.—That the force to be eventually opposed to the force under the command of Major-General Wellesley shall be such as to endanger the safety of the British troops.

If either of these events should happen, before I may have received further instructions from the Governor General it will be requisite, in my judgment, and I accordingly desire Your Excellency to make such dispositions as you may deem to be expedient for advancing with the army under your command to the support of Major-General Wellesley, or for marching to Hyderabad to support the rights and interests of the British Government at that Court. Your Excellency's determination in the first case will be governed by the advices you may receive from Major-General Wellesley, and in the second case by those from the Resident at Hyderabad.

If the invasion of the Nizam's territories should not be so powerful as to produce either of these extreme events, it appears to me that sufficient time will be allowed to His Excellency the Governor General to adopt a concerted plan for the defence and protection of His Highness the Nizam's dominions according to the terms of the defensive alliance. In this event, therefore, it will be prudent in my judgment, that the army under Your Excellency's command should be reserved for the disposal of the Governor General either for the purpose of internal security or for augmenting the means of defending our ally.

**No. 135**—A copy of Lord Clive's provisional orders for the disposal of the army under Stuart is forwarded to Close for his information.

**FROM—LORD CLIVE, THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Fort St. George, 19th May 1803.*

The nature of the advices I have received with respect to the possible course of policy which Jaswant Rao Holkar and Daulat Rao Sindhia may pursue in the present juncture of affairs at Poona and at Hyderabad has induced me to issue provisional orders for the disposal of the army under the immediate command of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Stuart in the event of the supposed occurrences, until the instructions of His Excellency the Governor General applicable to the actual state of our affairs, may be received ; and I deem it to be proper for me to transmit a copy of those provisional instructions for your information.

**No. 136**—Close writes to Balaji Kunjar asking him to dissuade Sindhia from coming to Poona.

**FROM**—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

**TO**—BALAJI KUNJAR, THE VAKIL OF THE PESHWA WITH SINDHIA.

*Bassein, 20 h May 1803.*

I had the pleasure of writing to you a few days since, and this moment I am favored with your despatch of the 23rd Moharram [15th May]. The letters you sent for the Peshwa and Balwant Rao Nagonath were forwarded to the Durbar and you will soon receive replies to them.

I have great confidence in your wisdom and discretion and the warmth of your attachment to His Highness the Peshwa and am infinitely pleased with your conduct in communicating so fully with Colonel Collins, who has a complete knowledge of the interests of the alliance and with whom you will of course continue to act in concert.

I perceive that Daulat Rao Sindhia has mentioned to the Peshwa his intention of coming hither to visit His Highness. The desolated state of the Peshwa's territory is perfectly known to you and you must perceive that the approach of Daulat Rao Sindhia to this quarter under present circumstances would be highly injurious to His Highness's interests. On this subject His Highness will doubtless write to you himself.

**No. 137**—Collins points out to the Governor General the futility of asking Sindhia to return to Hindustan before he meets Bhonsla, and adds that after their meeting the approaching rains would render any such return of Sindhia quite impossible.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Ghorasgaon, 22nd May 1803.*

I have received a letter from Mr. Secretary Edmonstone under date the 29th ultimo, apprizing me that he was directed by Your Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of my address to him of the 5th of the same month, and to inform me, in reply to the reference I had therein made, that it will be my duty to employ every effort in my power to induce Daulat Rao Sindhia to return to Hindustan.

I must confess that this intimation occasions me considerable uneasiness, in as much as it excites, in my mind, an apprehension that some part of Your Lordship's instructions for the guidance of my conduct,

has, unfortunately, miscarried, since I knew not until yesterday, when I received the letter above quoted, that Your Excellency had ever intended that I should employ any effort whatever to induce Daulat Rao Sindhia to return to Hindustan. Indeed I conceived that Your Lordship had, from the first, supposed it probable that the Maharaja would proceed to Poona; and this opinion was partly confirmed by the answer of Mr. Secretary Edmonstone to my reference under date the 15th of December and which originated from the same supposition. In this answer he informs me that it was Your Excellency's intention I should cross the Narbada and follow Daulat Rao Sindhia to Poona in the event of his proceeding to that capital.

I cannot, therefore, but regret that I was not sooner apprized of Your Lordship's intentions on this important point, more particularly as it will, I trust, clearly appear from my later advices to Your Excellency that the movements which Sindhia has recently made, with a view to effect a meeting with the Berar Raja, precludes for the present at least, any reasonable expectation of my being able to persuade this Prince to return to Hindustan until that interview has taken place. And all circumstances considered, I am even doubtful whether it might not rather tend to accelerate hostilities than to induce the compliance of the Maharaja, were I to declare that his longer continuance in the Deccan would be regarded by Your Excellency as indicating a design to obstruct the completion of the engagements lately concluded at Bassein. But no part of the instructions of Your Lordship which have yet reached me, authorize my hazarding so serious a declaration. Moreover, I have every reason to conclude that Your Excellency would, if possible, avert the necessity of a recurrence to extremities, consequently I must, for the present, relinquish the hope of prevailing on Daulat Rao Sindhia to retire from the Deccan. At the same time I beg leave to assure Your Lordship that I shall vigilantly watch for a favourable opportunity of exerting my endeavours towards attaining this desirable object.

Hitherto Daulat Rao Sindhia has not passed the boundary of his own territory, nor has he retracted the assurances of his pacific intentions, which he pledged to me in his durbar on the 24th of last March. And although there are strong grounds to warrant a belief that his ministers have since that period, obtained his reluctant consent to confederate with the Berar Raja for purposes incompatible with these assurances, yet should His Highness the Peshwa act with a firmness and dignity becoming his elevated station, I think it most likely that this Court would soon be convinced of the inutility of attempting by open opposition to obstruct the completion of the treaty of Bassein. Yet even in this event I am of opinion that Sindhia must necessarily remain in the Deccan until the expiration of the ensuing rains, since after he has had an interview with Raghujee Bhonsla, the season will be too far advanced to admit of his return to Hindustan, encumbered as his army now is with a large and

unwieldy train of artillery. And the same cause will, I imagine, prevent the immediate advance of the troops of the Maharaja to the capital of Poona.

Balaji Kunjar left camp on the 18th instant in order to pay a visit to Kashi Rao Holkar at Burhanpur. The Maharaja will change ground, I understand, tomorrow. His army has been, lately, reinforced by four thousand good cavalry under the command of Bapuji Sindhia.

I shall not fail to continue in attendance on the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia during the approaching rainy monsoon, conformably to the orders of Your Excellency communicated to me by Mr. Secretary Edmonstone in his letter under date the 29th ultimo.

**No. 138**—The Governor General informs Kirkpatrick, Resident at Hyderabad, that he has addressed a letter of remonstrance to the Berar Raja for having set his forces in motion to join Sindhia, and the Resident is asked to direct the Nizam to convey a warning to Bhonsla against marching his troops through his territories.

**FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,**

**TO—J. A. KIRKPATRICK, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.**

*Fort William, 22nd May 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to inform you that His Excellency having received intelligence that the Raja of Berar actually entered his tents on the 17th ultimo with the avowed intention of proceeding with the main body of his army through the territory of His Highness the Nizam for the purpose of forming a junction with Daulat Rao Sindhia, His Excellency has deemed it necessary to address a letter of remonstrance to the Raja of Berar on this occasion. That letter will be transmitted to you by this dispatch from the Persian department for the purpose of being forwarded to the Raja of Berar.

You will at the same time be furnished with copies in English and Persian of that letter for your own information and for the information of His Highness the Nizam and Azim-ul-umrah, to whom you are directed to communicate its contents.

His Excellency further directs that you will at the same time intimate to the minister that in His Excellency's judgment, it is highly expedient that His Highness the Nizam should address a letter to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla in terms corresponding with those of His Excellency's letter to that Chieftain.

His Highness's consent to the march of Raghuji Bhonsla's army into His Highness's territory, unconnected with his concurrence in the avowed object of that measure, cannot be supposed. The prosecution, therefore, of that measure, on the part of Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, must be considered to be an unjustifiable violation of the territories of His Highness the Nizam and an act of hostility both against His Highness and the British Government.

Whatever engagements, whether written or verbal, may exist between His Highness and Raja Raghuji Bhonsla under which the right of either party to march a body of troops through the territories of the other may be declared or understood, that right cannot be considered to extend to the present case, in which the march of the Raja of Berar's troops through His Highness's territory is directed to purposes injurious to the combined views and interests of His Highness and the British Government.

His Excellency is not appraised of the existence of any engagements of the nature above described. His Excellency has however deemed it expedient to state these observations with a view to enable you to refute the only argument which can possibly be advanced for the purpose of justifying this unwarrantable aggression on the part of the Raja of Berar.

It is possible that the Raja of Berar may not seriously intend to prosecute his march into His Highness's territory, and that the object of his taking the field may be merely to preserve the appearance of cooperation with Daulat Rao Sindhia. You are, therefore, authorized to suspend the transmission of the letter to Raghuji Bhonsla if you should be of opinion that the Raja of Berar does not entertain a serious intention of transgressing the limits of the Nizam's territory in the manner herein supposed.

**No. 139**—The Governor General very severely condemns Bhonsla's project of an alliance with Sindhia and Jaswant Rao Holkar to defeat the Treaty of Bassein, and threatens him with hostilities failing his immediate withdrawal with his army to his own territories.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE RAJA OF BERAR.

*Fort William, 22nd May 1803.*

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter in reply to mine (recapitulate that received 15th May).

I derived particular satisfaction from the assurances contained in that letter in which you have declared that "the relations of sincere friendship, harmony and concord have during a long period of time subsisted between

the two states so firmly as to have admitted of no difference of interest between them, and that no separation of them will occur". These amicable assurances confirmed my conviction that no measures would be adopted by you of a nature to disturb the harmony and good understanding so happily subsisting between your government and that of the honourable Company. My surprise and disappointment, therefore, have been proportionably excited by the communication which I have received of a letter from you to Azim-ul-umrah, in which you have distinctly declared your intention of proceeding to meet Daulat Rao Sindhia for the express purpose of forming a confederacy with that Chieftain and Jaswant Rao Holkar directed to the subversion of the arrangement concluded between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government for the restoration of His Highness to the *masnud* of Poona. I enclose a copy of your letter to Azim-ul-umrah for the purpose of satisfying you that I have not proceeded to act without a full knowledge of your conduct and intentions.

I have also received intelligence that you have entered your tents and that you have commenced your march with the main body of your army in the direction of His Highness the Nizam's territory.

My letter of the 13th instant will apprise you of my determined resolution to resist the execution of any design on the part of any of the Maratha Chieftains to impede the accomplishment of the arrangements lately concluded between the British Government and His Highness the Peshwa. Those arrangements have been concluded in concert with His Highness the Nizam, the ally of the British State, and under the engagements subsisting between His Highness the Nizam and the British Government, the march of your troops into the territory of the Nizam will be considered to be an act of aggression on your part, both against His Highness the Nizam and against the British power. Under the obligation of existing engagements it will, therefore, be my duty to retaliate on your possessions the unjustifiable violation of the territory of the friend and ally of the Company, unless you shall immediately retire with your army within the limits of your own dominions.

I, therefore, earnestly exhort you to return peaceably into your territories and to rest satisfied with the full communication which I have made to you of the treaty concluded with the Peshwa, and of the ulterior views of the British Government.

It is my earnest desire to maintain the relations of amity and concord between you and the British Government, but the state of your military preparations and the intelligence of your march towards the territory of His Highness the Nizam have compelled me to assemble a considerable body of British forces on the frontier of your dominions as a measure of necessary precaution.

It will depend on your conduct whether the ties of friendship between the two states shall remain inviolate or shall be dissolved.

My wish is to preserve peace but I will not suffer the just rights of the British Government or of the allies to be violated with impunity. You will attend to this friendly admonition, and hereafter you will receive with cordiality the communications which will be made to you by a respectable person, whom I propose to dispatch to you with the most explicit assurances of my regard and esteem.

**No. 140**—Kirkpatrick is directed by the Governor General to hand over his own charge to his Secretary, Mr. Russell, and to proceed to the camp of the Raja of Berar to personally support the representations of His Excellency and to dissuade the Raja from joining Sindhia.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—MAJOR KIRKPATRICK, THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

*Fort William, 23rd May 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to inform you that in the event of the Raja of Berar's actually prosecuting his march into the Nizam's territory for the purpose of meeting Daulat Rao Sindhia, His Excellency deems it expedient that an officer properly qualified should be dispatched to that Chieftain's camp on the part of the British Government, for the purpose of enforcing the representations and remonstrances which His Excellency has already communicated by letter to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla on the subject of his supposed design of forming a confederacy with Daulat Rao Sindhia for the subversion of the arrangements lately concluded between the British Government and His Highness the Peshwa.

The complete knowledge which your official situation has enabled you to acquire of the late transactions in the Maratha Empire, and of the views and interests of all the parties concerned in those transactions, rendered you in His Excellency's judgment peculiarly qualified for the successful discharge of that duty. Adverting also to the supposed progress of Raja Raghuji Bhonsla towards the place said to be appointed for the meeting between him and Daulat Rao Sindhia, His Excellency considers that a deputation from Hyderabad will reach the Raja's camp at an earlier period of time than from any other station from which it would be practicable to dispatch a qualified envoy.

The opinion which His Excellency entertains of the character and talents of your Secretary, Mr. Russell, satisfies His Excellency's mind that in the actual situation of affairs Mr. Russell is qualified to discharge the

duties of the Residency during your absence. Mr. Russell will at the same time be enabled to secure the benefit of your advice and instructions under the occurrence of any unforeseen difficulty.

His Excellency, therefore, directs that in the event of Raja Raghuji Bhonsla's having actually prosecuted his march into the Nizam's territory you will deliver over the temporary charge of the Residency to your Secretary and that you will proceed to the camp of Raja Raghuji Bhonsla with the utmost practicable expedition.

The complete information which you possess of His Excellency's sentiments and views on the present crisis of the affairs of the Maratha State and the detailed explanation of those sentiments as connected with the interests of Raja Raghuji Bhonsla contained in His Excellency's letters of the 13th and 23rd instant (copies of which have been transmitted to you), render it unnecessary to furnish you with detailed instructions for the regulation of your conduct on this occasion.

His Excellency deems it sufficient to direct that your communications with the Raja of Berar be guided by the general spirit of His Excellency's counsels, and by the tenor of His Excellency's late letters to the Raja of Berar. His Excellency relies on the exertion of your zeal and discretion for the application of the general principles of His Excellency's policy to the circumstances in which you may be required to act.

It may be proper that you should state to the Raja of Berar that your mission and the objects of it have the entire concurrence of His Highness the Nizam.

You will of course communicate the contents of this dispatch to the Court of Hyderabad.

*P.S.*—A letter from His Excellency the Governor General to the Raja of Berar informing that Chieftain that His Excellency has been pleased to select you for the proposed mission will be prepared and transmitted to you with the least practicable delay.

**No. 141**—J. Stuart informs Lord Clive that due to the bad state of his health, he was forced to go to Bellary, and hopes to join the army at Mudgal within a few days.

**FROM**—J. STUART, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,

**TO**—LORD CLIVE.

*Head Quarters, 25 miles North of Bellary, 23rd May 1803.*

I have the honour to forward to Your Lordship a copy of a dispatch from the honourable Major-General Wellesley, bearing date the 15th instant.



The state of my health, which has suffered considerably from fatigue and the intense heat of this weather, has obliged me to proceed to Bellary. I have left the army under the command of Major-General Campbell, and have furnished that officer with instructions for his guidance. I trust that in the course of a few days my health will be sufficiently re-established to enable me to rejoin the army at Mudgal; in the meantime, my presence at Bellary will be useful in forwarding various necessary arrangements connected with the subsistence of the troops in the positions which they will probably occupy.

**No. 142**—Bhonsla is informed that Kirkpatrick has been sent to him as a special envoy to discuss the critical situation and to explain personally the British point of view,

**FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,**

**TO—RAJA RAGHUJI BHONSLA.**

*Fort William, 24th May 1803.*

I apprized you in my last letter of my intention to dispatch immediately a respectable gentleman to your camp. I have accordingly directed Major Kirkpatrick, the representative of the British Government at the Court of His Highness the Nizam, to proceed without delay to your camp.

Major Kirkpatrick will personally explain to you the just and amicable nature of the engagements lately concluded with His Highness the Peshwa; and of the views and intentions of the British Government in the present state of the affairs of the Maratha Empire, and will satisfy your mind of the sincere disposition which I entertain to preserve inviolate the relations of amity and concord between you and the British Government, of which the mission of that officer must appear to you to be an additional proof. Major Kirkpatrick will also communicate to you corresponding sentiments of friendship and good will on the part of His Highness the Nizam. I confidently trust that the candid explanation of my sentiments and of the just and amicable intentions of the British Government contained in my late letters, and the representations which Major Kirkpatrick is instructed to make to you in person, will induce you to desist from the prosecution of any measures tending to interrupt the harmony which has so long been subsisting between you and the British Government and its allies. Major Kirkpatrick will, however, apprise you that if you should disappoint my expectations of your friendship and discretion, and if you should be induced to pursue hostile

measures, the British Government is resolved to resent such conduct with the utmost alacrity and vigour.

Major Kirkpatrick will have the honour of delivering this letter ; and I refer you to the verbal communications of that officer for further details.

**No. 143**—Bhonsla informs the Governor General that he has come to the frontier of Khandesh merely to settle the differences between Sindhia and Holkar, and assures the Governor General of his friendly intentions towards the English.

**FROM—RAGHUJI BHONSLA, THE RAJA OF BERAR,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*End of May, 1803. Received 17th June 1803.*

Shridhar Pandit and Krishna Rao Chitnavis, having quitted Poona by my desire, arrived at Nagpur on the 18th of Ziqad (13th March), and paid me a visit, accompanied by Vyankat Rao, vakil from Jaswant Rao Holkar and, on the 25th of that month (20th March), arrived Jadu Rao Bhaskar, the minister of Daulat Rao Sindhia, from whom I also received a visit. In sum, they (meaning Jadu Rao Bhaskar and Vyankat Rao) stated that the language of Sindhia and Holkar severally accorded in declaring that they held me in equal veneration with their parents and considered me as possessing the most consummate prudence and foresight, that, therefore, I was to interpose my mediation to compose the differences subsisting between the contending Chiefs, and that Sindhia and Holkar would abide religiously (by my arbitration). After the maturest deliberation, therefore, I conceived the expediency of concerting in person, with Sindhia and Holkar, the means of re-establishing cordiality and friendship between them ; and at the urgent desire and entreaty of Daulat Rao Sindhia, as well as at the persevering and instant solicitation of Jadu Rao Bhaskar, I entered my tents on the 24th of Zil-hijja (17th April).

After the interview shall have taken place and the requisite degree of cordiality been renewed between Sindhia and Holkar, whatever measures may be determined on, will of course be communicated to Your Lordship, in conformity to the spirit of existing union and friendship.

Referring Your Lordship for all further particulars to the verbal communications of Buggaji Pandit, I request that you will continue to gratify me by letters notifying your health which will tend to consolidate the bond of harmony and alliance.

**No. 144**—Kirkpatrick is informed that in view of the precarious state of the Nizam's health his stay at Hyderabad is most essential; he might, however, send his Secretary, Mr. Russell, to Bhonsla's camp.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

TO—MAJ. J. A. KIRKPATRICK, THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

*Fort William, 25th May 1803.*

(Secret Department).

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch number 245 dated the 13th instant, and to signify to you that the intelligence which that dispatch contains of the precarious state of His Highness the Nizam's health, renders it necessary to authorize your eventual departure from the instructions communicated to you in my letter of the 23rd instant, by which you are directed to proceed to the camp of the Raja of Berar. In the event of the Nizam's decease or of the probability of the early occurrence of that event your continuing at Hyderabad will be indispensably necessary.

You are authorized, therefore, in either of those events to remain at Hyderabad and to dispatch Mr. Russell to the camp of the Raja of Berar if with reference to the actual situation of affairs at the time when you shall receive this dispatch, that measure should appear to you to be advisable, and you will in that case furnish Mr. Russell with the necessary instructions for the regulation of his conduct.

In the event of His Highness the Nizam's decease you will proceed to act without delay according to the tenor of His Excellency the Governor General-in-Council's instructions with regard to the succession to the *masnad* of Hyderabad communicated to you in my letter of the [ ] of January 1803.

The utmost exertion of your zeal and talents will be required in securing the adoption of such measures as may be practicable in the supposed crisis for the preservation of tranquillity in the city of Hyderabad and for the peaceable succession of Sikandar Jah to the *masnad* of his father.

**No. 145**—Close is requested to make the Peshwa expedite the despatch of a letter to Sindhia asking him to return to Hindustan without any further delay.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Chikhli, 26th May 1803.*

I lose no time in forwarding for your information, the copy of a dispatch, which I have just received from Mr. Secretary Edmonstone.

From the contents of this dispatch, you will, at once, perceive how necessary it is that His Highness the Peshwa should no longer delay writing to Daulat Rao Sindhia in the terms proposed by you in the Memorandum (No. 1) which you delivered to the ministers of His Highness under date the 11th instant.

Moreover, after perusing the enclosed transcript of instructions for the guidance of my conduct, I doubt not but you will deem it expedient to advise His Highness the Peshwa to recommend to Daulat Rao Sindhia the measure of recrossing the Narbada and of repairing to his possessions in Hindustan without delay.

I have sent to request an immediate audience of the Maharaja, at the same time apprizing him that I had matters of great importance to communicate on the part of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General. I shall, also, inform Balaji Kunjar that I have it in command from His Excellency to disclose the whole of the Treaty of Bassein to Daulat Rao Sindhia without loss of time.

P.S.—I suppose you will submit this dispatch, as early as possible, to the perusal of the honourable Major-General Arthur Wellesley.

No. 146—Collins acquaints Close with the details of Mirza Bakar's interview with Balaji Kunjar on May 27, 1803.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Chikhli, 27th May 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 21st instant covering a letter to the address of Balaji Kunjar, together with a translate of the same. This vakil returned from Burhanpur on the 25th current, and I have the pleasure to inform you that both of your letters, those entrusted to my care I mean, were safely delivered to him.

My Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan waited on Balaji this morning to apprise him of my intention to make Daulat Rao Sindhia acquainted with all the articles of the Treaty of Bassein. At the same time Mirza Bakar informed this vakil, that His Excellency the most noble the Governor General had directed me to protest against the advance of Daulat Rao Sindhia to Poona. Balaji said all this was very proper, but in consideration of the youth and inexperience of the Maharaja, advised me to address him in terms of great mildness on this occasion.

Balaji Kunjar seemed to think it probable that Sindhia would proceed to Poona, and to my great surprise gave it as his own opinion to the Mirza, that the presence of the Maharaja at the capital, for once

at least, might be required. This surely was strange language after he had been informed of the instructions which I had received from his Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

I learn, also, from Mirza Bakar that Balaji Kunjar purposed writing to His Highness the Peshwa in order to dissuade His Highness from being too precipitate in detaching any force to act against Jaswant Rao Holkar. When my Munshi observed to him there can be no use in giving advice of that note to the Peshwa, Balaji replied that the admonition was absolutely necessary under the present circumstances, alluding, as he subsequently explained, to the confederacy recently formed between Sindhia, Raghoji Bhonsla and Holkar. I wish that this vakil may not have suffered himself to be cajoled by the unremitting attentions of Ambaji Ingle.

The ministers of this court positively affirm, that soon after the return of His Highness the Peshwa to Poona, he invited Daulat Rao Sindhia, by letter, to repair to his Durbar. How far this assertion may be depended on, I shall not pretend to determine; but I must confess I shall not be perfectly at ease, until I hear from you that the Peshwa has actually prohibited the advance of the Maharaja, and of the Berar Raja to that city.

**No. 147**—Lord Clive informs J. Stuart that in view of the hostile attitude of Holkar, Sindhia and the Raja of Berar, it is deemed essential not to disperse the armies under him and General Wellesley, and asks him to advise about the defence arrangements of the British possessions if the main army was to be sent away for different purposes.

FROM—LORD CLIVE,

TO—J. STUART, C-in-C.

*Fort St. George, 28th May 1803.*

I have had the honour to receive Your Excellency's dispatch of the 17th instant, previously to which I had stated to Your Excellency, in my dispatch of the 19th instant, my sentiments respecting the expediency of your passing the frontier with the main army.

Since the date of those dispatches, I have received the heads of instructions intended to be transmitted by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to the Residents at Poona and with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

The present state of affairs in the Maratha Empire seems calculated to postpone the dispersion of the armies under Your Excellency's command, and under that of the honourable Major-General Wellesley, and consequently to defer one of the most important objects in the contemplation of the Governor General.

If the policy adopted by Holkar, Sindhia and the Raja of Berar should, contrary to the expectations at present entertained, and to the efforts of the Governor General for maintaining the tranquillity of India, terminate in a confederacy hostile to the British Empire and its allies, it will remain for me to concert with Your Excellency to adopt those measures which may be necessary and practicable with respect to this Presidency, for the purpose of compelling those Chieftains to respect the Treaty of Bassein.

Your Excellency is aware of the extent to which it became requisite to diminish the force in every part of the territories subject to this Presidency, in order to assemble the army under your command. The plan on which the main army was assembled having been revised by the Governor General, His Excellency was pleased to prescribe the internal security of our possessions to be an indispensable condition of our interference for the settlement of the affairs of the Maratha Empire on the basis of the Treaty of Bassein; adverting, therefore, to the actual state of the force at the disposal of this government (as described in your minute of the 2nd January last) and to the principles laid down by the Governor General, I continue to think that the main army cannot with prudence be removed to a distance from our own territories, unless one of the contingencies stated in my dispatch of the 19th instant should occur.

But as the recent advices from Colonels Close and Collins appear, at present, to be of a tenor which may eventually require the decisive application of our military strength to defeat the objects of the supposed confederacy on the frontier dominions of our allies, the Peshwa and the Nizam, combined with a similar effort in the territories under the Presidency of the Fort William, I request that Your Excellency will be pleased to state to me your sentiments, first with respect to the means of applying the main army to the protection of the Company's possessions, and to the support of the troops in advance: second in the event of the separation of the main army becoming necessary for those different purposes, with respect to the extent of the force which may be allotted to support the operations on the frontier: third with respect to the time and mode of carrying into effect these arrangements, if they should ultimately become necessary.

It appears to me, in the actual state of the Peshwa's affairs, considerable objections exist to the occupation of the territories ceded to us by the Treaty of Bassein in the southern parts of the Peshwa's territories, and I shall deem it to be proper to postpone the measure until His Highness's Government shall have assumed a settled form, or at least until provision shall have been made for the rights of the Jagirdars who at present possess an interest in those lands. On this subject I have stated my opinion to His Excellency the Governor General in a dispatch, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy for your information.

**No. 148**—The Governor General is informed of the progress of the negotiations that are going on between the Nizam's Government and the English Resident at Hyderabad in respect of the various questions at issue.

**FROM—J. A. KIRKPATRICK, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Hyderabad, 30th May 1803.*

Raja Ragotim Rao's deputy, Anand Rao, subsequently called at the Residency on the 27th instant to state to me on the part of the minister : first, that the confusion occasioned at Aurangabad by Jaswant Rao Holkar's late proceedings was such as required remedy ; and that as no confidence could be placed in the brother of the Subah Nizam Newaz Jang, Azim-ul-umra requested that I would write to the honourable Major-General Wellesley, or in his absence to Colonel Stevenson, requesting them to adopt the necessary measures on their arrival, thereby preventing the further effects of Saddruddin's disaffection or ill-conduct, and for restoring order and security to the city. Secondly, that as the important frontier fortress of Parenda was still garrisoned by Nizam Newaz Jang's troops who pleaded claims of arrears for not evacuating the place as they had been required to do, that Major-General Wellesley, or Colonel Stevenson might be requested to take the earliest convenient opportunity to turn out the garrison of Nizam Jang, and replace it by a battalion from Raja Mohipat Ram's party. Thirdly, that Sadashiv Mankeshvar had signified to Anand Rao, His Highness's news-writer at Poona, that he must not visit the British Resident without express permission from the Peshwa, which being an innovation that His Highness was not disposed to submit to, I was requested to apprise Colonel Close of the circumstance, and to desire that he would take the necessary steps for carrying on his intercourse with Anand Rao in the same way as had heretofore been customary.

I gave Anand Rao Sabhapati to understand, that I would send my Munshi the following day to the Durbar with answers to the first and last of these messages ; but that the second was just now ill-timed, as in consequence of the distance which General Wellesley's and Colonel Stevenson's forces now were from Parenda, the opportunity which I had long ago pointed out (though it escaped me to report it to Your Excellency in any of my preceding dispatches) of relieving Nizam Newaz Jang's garrison in Parenda without danger of opposition, was gone by for the present.

Accordingly, the day before yesterday my Munshi waited on the minister, and I have herewith the honour to inclose for Your Excellency's notice, translation of his report (No. 1) of what passed on the occasion.

Your Excellency's letter to the Raja of Berar, copy of which has been communicated to this court, in conformity to Your Excellency's instructions, was dispatched a few hours after its arrival here by the Nizam's *Shutur-sawars* to Nagpur.

When furnished with a copy of the minister's letter to ~~Raja~~ Mohipat Ram on the mode of restoring order to the city of Aurungabad, I propose addressing Major-General Wellesley to the effect requested by Azim-ul-umra.

As Colonel Close is regularly furnished with copies of my dispatches to Your Excellency, he will of course, if he should deem it necessary, take measures for remedying the innovation complained of by this government.

It is with extreme concern that I have to report to Your Excellency that my endeavours to prevail on this government to entertain the partisan Mir Khan, with his whole party, have hitherto proved so unavailing. There is still one argument remaining to be used, and that one of considerable weight to induce the minister to listen to my representations on the foregoing score ; which is, that in the event of hostilities actually taking place with the united Maratha Chieftains, this government's title to an equal share of the advantages that may eventually accrue will depend, according to treaty, on the nature and extent of its exertions in the common cause ; but I am not quite sure that even this argument would be attended with the desired effect, previous to the event taking place, from whence the expected advantages are to be derived, even supposing that it would be proper for me to employ it in the present stage of affairs, a point on which I am, I confess, somewhat doubtful.

Notwithstanding the minister now limits the number of Mir Khan's party which His Highness is willing to entertain, to three thousand, I have some reason to think that he has nevertheless authorized Raja Mohipat Ram to agree to entertaining the whole without limitation, provided Major-General Wellesley agrees (which I conceive to be rather unlikely) in writing, to half the expense being defrayed by the Company ; but this unreserved latitude given to Mohipat Ram proceeds, I believe, from a persuasion, though probably ill-founded on the part of the minister, that in the event of that partizan's deserting the cause of Holkar, not more than six thousand at the utmost of his troops would follow him, the expense of half only of which number would thus, according to Azim-ul-umra's plan, fall to be defrayed by this government.

I have the honour to acquaint Your Excellency, that in pursuance of my suggestion as submitted to Your Excellency in my address, His Highness was pleased to order all the guns on the city-walls, and on the ramparts of Golkonda, to be fired this morning in honour of the Peshwa's return to his capital.



His Highness's health, I have the pleasure to inform Your Excellency, is described as still in a progressing state of improvement; but it would give me still more pleasure if I could add that any well-founded reliance could be placed on the stability or even temporary duration of his most remarkable recovery.

I have at length obtained from this government the instrument respecting the substitution of a regiment of European infantry, of thousand rank and file, with its proportion of artillery, to the two additional battalions of sepoy provided for by the Treaty of 1800, as directed by the 17th paragraph of Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's letter of the 23rd of December last, and have herewith the honour to inclose a copy and translation of the same (being a letter from the Nizam himself to my address) for Your Excellency's notice.

**No. 149**—In this important letter Collins informs the Governor General that he acquainted Sindhia fully with the Treaty of Bassein. He further adds that on being pressed for defining his attitude towards the English the Maharaja said that immediately after his interview with the Raja of Berar the Resident would be informed whether it would be peace or war.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Chikhli, 29th May 1803.*

In an official address to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone, under date the 26th instant, I acknowledged the receipt of Your Excellency's notes of instructions transmitted to me in his letter of the 5th of this month. At the same time I informed him that I expected to have an interview with Daulat Rao Sindhia on the 27th instant; in which expectation I was, however, disappointed, the Maharaja having postponed granting me an audience until the following day.

Yesterday afternoon I waited on Daulat Rao Sindhia, accompanied by my assistant Captain Paris Bradshaw, Mirza Bakar Khan and Ganpat Rai. Anna Bhaskar, Ambaji Ingle, Vitthal Pant, Bappu Chitnavis, Munshi Kavalnayan, and Sadashiv Rao were present on the part of Maharaja. After an interchange of compliments, I informed Sindhia that as he had expressed a desire to be made acquainted with the articles of the treaty concluded at Bassein between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government, Your Excellency, actuated by motives of friendship, as well as by a wish to remove all doubts which might be entertained at this court respecting the tendency of the late engagements contracted with Baji Rao, had directed me to communicate to the Maharaja, without

delay, the whole of that treaty ; that, accordingly, I had brought with me copies in Persian and English, of the treaty, in order that it might be fully explained to him. I then gave the copies into the hands of Munshi Kavalnayan, with a request that he would peruse the Persian one, and make a faithful report of its contents to his Prince.

Munshi Kavalnayana having attentively read the whole of the treaty, proceeded to interpret it, article by article, to Daulat Rao Sindhia ; but when the Munshi came to the 12th article, which expressly provides additional security for the independence of the feudatory Maratha Chiefs, he by no means gave that force to the words thereof which he ought to have done ; I was, therefore, under the necessity of assisting him and I embraced this occasion of giving the clearest explanation of that important stipulation and I had the pleasure to perceive that Sindhia was at length fully satisfied of the moderation, as well as friendly intent of the 12th article.

When the whole of the treaty had been distinctly explained to the Maharaja, I then asked him whether he thought it contained anything injurious to his just rights, since I had reason to think some doubts had arisen in his mind on this head. Anna Bhaskar, who thought proper to reply to my question, acknowledged that the treaty did not contain any stipulation prejudicial to the rights of the Maharaja, to which the latter assented. I then said it afforded me real pleasure to observe that Your Lordship's liberal communication of the engagements contracted at Bassein, had been productive of the desired effect, for that, connected as our respective states were in friendship, no explanation whatever ought to be withheld by either, which could tend to remove any doubts or suspicions that might occasionally occur.

After making the foregoing observation, I proceeded to state that negotiations had of late been carried on between Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Berar Raja. That these Chiefs were, I understood, to have an interview shortly, somewhere in the vicinity of this place. That the Maharaja had concluded a peace with Jaswant Rao Holkar, in whose camp a vakil now resided on the part, also, of Raghuji Bhonsla. That he (Sindhia) had, likewise, avowed an intention of proceeding with his army to Poona, accompanied by the Berar Raja ; and that on combining these circumstances, I could not but suspect that this court meditated designs adverse to the interests of the British Government. For since His Highness the Peshwa was restored to the *masnad* of Poona, the presence of the Maharaja, at that capital, could not now be of any use, but, on the contrary, might be productive of evil consequences. Nor could the longer continuance of the Maharaja in the Deccan be necessary to his own security, since he had come to an accommodation with the only enemy from whom he had anything to apprehend south of the Narbada. That, therefore, I felt it my duty to require an unreserved explanation from this court, as well respecting the intent of the proposed interview

between the Maharaja and the Raja of Berar, as regarding the nature of the engagement entered into by those Chiefs with Jaswant Rao Holkar, as their recent union and present proceedings induced some suspicion that they were confederated either for the purpose of invading the territories of our allies, His Highness the Peshwa and the Nawab Nizam, or of subverting the arrangements lately concluded between the British Government and Baji Rao, and in order to induce the Maharaja to favor me with a candid declaration of his intentions I concluded, with giving him the strongest assurances of Your Lordship's sincere disposition to maintain, and even to improve, the existing friendly connection between the two Sarkars. And I, moreover, positively asserted that the British Government would make no attempt whatever upon the independence of the State, unless he (Sindhia) should provoke hostility by acts of aggression.

As Daulat Rao Sindhia did not instantly speak, Anna Bhaskar took upon himself to say, in reply, that his master had no intention, whatever, to invade either the territory of His Highness the Peshwa, or of the Nawab Nizam, adding, that when Holkar was levying contributions on the city of Aurangabad, the Maharaja had desired that Chief to desist from further exactions, and to retire from the Nizam's frontier. I said that I was highly gratified by these assurances, and observed that it only now remained for the Maharaja to declare that the negotiations between the Durbar, the Berar Raja and Holkar were not entered into with any view to obstruct the completion of the Treaty of Bassein.

Anna Bhaskar then plainly told me that Sindhia could afford me no satisfaction on this point until he had conferred with the Berar Raja. I instantly replied that the proposed interview between those Chiefs was itself a sufficient cause to excite the suspicions of our government, in as much as the present tranquil state of affairs in the Deccan did not require the adoption of a measure seldom resorted to, but for hostile purposes, and at the same time I brought forward the arguments and observations contained in your excellent notes of instructions, which I had taken with me to the Durbar in order to assist my memory.

I most particularly insisted on the full right of the Peshwa to avail himself of the aid of the British power for his restoration, and to contract his present engagements with the English independently of the consent of the feudal Chiefs of the Maratha Empire. I also declared and in the plainest terms, that Your Excellency was resolved not to admit of any opposition whatever, to the execution of a treaty, founded in principles of justice and moderation. In short, I did not fail to introduce every argument with which I had been furnished by Your Lordship; and I, moreover, exerted every mode of persuasion that I was master of, in order to induce this Court to give me the required explanation before

any meeting should take place between Raghuji Bhonsla and Daulat Rao Sindhia. But it is with infinite concern I inform Your Excellency that my utmost endeavours on this occasion, proved altogether unsuccessful, Anna Bhaskar and Munshi Kavalnayan, both persisting that the Maharaja could not, possibly, give me the satisfaction I required previously to his conference with the Nagpur Chieftain.

Perceiving that the ministers would not relax from the declaration, I again addressed myself to Daulat Rao Sindhia, observing that although what I should now say to him was unpleasant to my feelings, yet the interests of both Sarkars required that I should without delay, or reserve, apprise him of the line of conduct which Your Excellency would assuredly pursue, should this court persevere in withholding from me the information which I had, with so much reason, demanded. I, also, remarked that it was the more incumbent on me to be explicit, in the present instance, lest the Maharaja might, unadvisedly, be involved in a serious and unequal contest with the English.

I then stated that if this court persisted in refusing to give the explanation which I now demanded, and at the same time conducted its military operations in opposition to the representations which I had made, that Your Excellency would be compelled to adopt measures of precaution on every boundary of the Maharaja's dominions, and moreover that certain intelligence of the accession of the Maharaja to any confederacy against the British power, would produce immediate hostility on all parts of his frontier. I added that were the united forces of the Maharaja and of the Berar Raja to march to Poona at this juncture, that Your Lordship could not but regard such a procedure as indicative of hostile designs against the British Government; and that any attack on the territories of His Highness the Nizam, would be considered by Your Excellency as an act of aggression on the part of this Court.

When I had done speaking, Anna Bhaskar, positively, affirmed that His Highness the Peshwa, since his return to his capital, had repeatedly written to the Maharaja and to the Berar Raja, desiring both those Chiefs to repair to Poona. I expressed much surprise at this information having, as I told Anna Bhaskar, understood from Colonel Close that His Highness Baji Rao had requested Daulat Rao Sindhia not to advance to that city. There the Maharaja solemnly assured me, that he and the Bhonsla had actually received the invitation mentioned by Anna Bhaskar, and this Prince further asserted that the Peshwa had never written to him prohibiting his approach to Poona. To this assertion I only said that no doubt a letter to that effect from His Highness would soon arrive here. Then reverting to the required explanation, I conjured Sindhia, in language both urgent and conciliatory, to remove all my doubts and suspicions by an immediate and candid avowal of his intentions.

Daulat Rao in reply to those instances on my part, said that he could not at present afford me the satisfaction I demanded without a

violation of the faith which he had pledged to the Raja of Berar. He (Sindhia) then observed, that the Bhonsla was distant no more than forty kos from hence, and would probably arrive here in the course of a few days; that, immediately after his interview with that Raja, I should be informed whether it would be peace or war. These words he delivered with much seeming composure. I then asked him whether I must consider this declaration was final on his part, which question was answered in the affirmative by the ministers of Daulat Rao Sindhia. Here the conference, which had lasted three hours ended, and soon after I took a respectful leave of the Maharaja. Neither Sindhia, nor his ministers, made any remarks on the Treaty of Bassein, nor did they request for a copy of it.

If it be true that His Highness the Peshwa has really invited Daulat Rao Sindhia to repair to Poona, of which fact the Maharaja assured me he had undeniable proofs under the seal of Bajji Rao, Sindhia may possibly march to that capital, and allege that this measure was sanctioned by the orders of the head of the Maratha Empire. I, therefore, sincerely hope that His Highness the Peshwa has not delayed to forward a letter to the Maharaja prohibiting his advance to Poona.

**No. 150**—Lord Clive informs the Governor General about the indisposition of J. Stuart due to the extreme heat in the Deccan.

FROM—LORD CLIVE,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fort St. George, 30th May 1803.*

I have the honour to transmit, for Your Excellency's information, copy of a dispatch which I have received from the Commander-in-Chief.

Your Lordship will be concerned to observe, that His Excellency's health has suffered from the extreme heat of the weather in the ceded districts, which has been this session uncommonly severe.

**No. 151**—Sindhia is highly pleased with the immediate notice paid to his representations about the depredations committed at Shrigonda.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Chikhli, 30th May 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and to inform you that Daulat Rao Sindhia was highly pleased

with the immediate notice which had been paid to his representation respecting the irregularities committed at Choormargoondah (Shrigonda). On this occasion the Maharaja said he was perfectly assured that the honourable Major-General Wellesley would do all in his power to bring the offenders to punishment.

**No. 152**—Close is informed that neither does the Peshwa know nor did he authorise Balaji Kunjar to make any cessions to Sindhia.

**FROM—RAGHUNATH RAO JANARDAN, THE PESHWA'S MINISTER FOR  
BRITISH AFFAIRS,**

**TO—COLONEL B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Poona, Safar 8, 1217 A.H. (30th May 1803).*

It was stated in a letter lately received from the Governor of Bombay that Balaji Kunjar had ceded to Daulat Rao Sindhia the Pargana of Parchole and Phoolpara and Katurgaung, and an explanation was demanded by the British Resident whether Balaji Kunjar had acted on authority or under what circumstances he had acted.

The Peshwa's Government knows nothing of the transaction above alluded to ; it neither authorized Balaji Kunjar to make the cessions, nor does it know under what circumstances he acted.

**No. 153**—Close acquaints Duncan with the change of attitude of Balaji Kunjar towards the Treaty of Bassein.

**FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.**

*Poona, 31st May 1803.*

I do myself the honour to forward for your notice copy of a letter to my address just received from Colonel Collins.

When Balaji Kunjar joined the camp of Sindhia he showed a ready disposition to communicate confidentially with Colonel Collins and

a warm desire to co-operate with him in support of the Peshwa's interests and in every endeavour to prevent any measures being taken by Sindhia to obstruct the object embraced by the Treaty of Bassein. He expressed his entire approbation of the arguments which had been used by the Colonel in justification of that treaty, and manifested a strong inclination to support those arguments to prevent the menaced confederacy, and the march of Sindhia to Poona become wholly unnecessary from the absence of Holkar and the return of His Highness to his capital. Balaji Kunjar, however, has now thought proper to change his tone to maintain the expediency of Sindhia's marching to Poona, and to reason on the assumed ground of the noised confederacy between Sindhia, Raghuji Bhonsla and Holkar being actually formed.

This sudden reverse of speech and sentiment on the part of Kunjar is sufficient to warrant the suspicion that he is and has been inwardly hostile to the alliance lately concluded with the Poona State, may well account for his having taken means, unwarrantably, for transferring to Sindhia from the Peshwa's authority the lands claimed in his *sanad* by Laxman Bhaskar in Gujrat, and can only add to the necessity of those lands being brought under the management of the honourable Company with the least possible delay.

**No. 154—Sindhia is greatly dissatisfied with the Treaty of Bassein.**

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Chikhli, 31st May 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, with its enclosures.

Ere this, you will have been apprized of my having received Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's letter of the 5th of the present month. However, I am not the less sensible of your goodness in forwarding to me a copy of that dispatch.

Balaji Kunjar has informed Mirza Bakar, my Munshi, that this Durbar is much dissatisfied with the Treaty of Bassein. He further said that His Highness the Peshwa did not wish that the articles of the treaty should be disclosed to Daulat Rao Sindhia.

## SECTION 4

*Persistent diplomacy of Collins to dissuade Sindhia  
and Bhonsla from going to war, fails,*

*(1st June to 4th August 1803.)*

No. 155—Collins is informed of the anxiety of Raja Himmat Bahadur to make friends with the English, and also of the instructions received by the Raja from Sindhia to be in readiness to invade the English territories in case of war.

FROM—J. MEISELBACK,

TO—COLONEL COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Kalinjar, 1st June 1803.*

Yesterday noon the Raja sent for me, and on my coming before him he got off his seat in the middle of his Durbar, and took me aside in a separate room, expressing to me thus : that it is now near six months that he had wrote to you and also to the Governor General, has sent me twice to Allahabad, merely to acquaint you how much he was inclined to to combine with the English ; —as yet nothing has been settled.

While I was sitting with the Raja, an express by a couple of *jasus*, arrived from Daulat Rao Sindhia's camp with a letter from the Raja, and one from Ghani Bahadur, the contents of which were as follows : that Daulat Rao, Holkar, and the Nagpur Raja all combined together ; that they will have an army of about 200,000 horsemen and 12 brigades to face the English army and the Nizam's now in the Deccan ; and that he had sent off about 5,000 Pindaris and 3,000 horsemen, with 6 battalions :—Jasseby (?) to stay with the Bhau, to be in readiness in that quarter, and also had wrote to General Perron to combine with the Sikhs, and that the Raja and Ghani are to be in readiness in this part should war be proclaimed, so that it is his wish to face and attack the English from all quarters. I asked the Raja if I might write to you on this subject ; his answer to me was that I might do as I pleased, but not in his name. I asked him for the copy of the letter he had received ; but he declined giving it, fearing it might be sent by the English to Daulat Rao Sindhia.

I am given to understand by the Raja, that your sepoys on the other side of Tarra Chilla Ghat are constantly firing on this side ; I wish that



you would put a stop to this proceeding, and you will permit the inhabitants of both sides to cross and recross the Jumna ; and should it be the desire of the Raja for any particular reason to cross and recross, he will acquaint you of it, and get your permission.

I have been informed just now that one of your *chaprasis* which had sent to me, has been killed on the road ; let me know what letters he might have had with him ; and I must beg that in future, when you have occasion to send *chaprasis* to me or to the Raja, you will desire the man to go to Terrowah, to my Dewan Hulas Rao ; he has orders from me to send a few match-lock sepoys to conduct them safe to our camp.

**No. 156**—Collins is informed about the instructions given to the Pindaris by Sindhia to join Himmat Bahadur and Ghani Bahadur, who are asked to commit depredations in the English territories

• FROM—JOHN MEISELBACK,

TO—COLONEL COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Kalinjar, 2nd June 1803.*

Accompanying this note you will receive the Persian news-papers. I have just now been informed, that the 5,000 Pindaris, with 3,000 horse-men, are ordered to join Himmat Bahadur, and Ghani Bahadur is commanded by Dharam Rao Pandit to begin to make depredations in the Company's dominions.

The Raja this morning went to Ghani Bahadur to show the letter which he had received from Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 157**—Translation of a Paper stated to be the copy of a letter from Daulat Rao Sindhia to Ghuism Mahomed Khan.

*Received at Calcutta on 26th July 1803.*

As our magnanimity is ever disposed to perpetuate and strengthen the foundations of the dominion of rulers and chieftains, whose characters are distinguished by justice and good faith, the information of your exile from your native country has been a constant source of concern to us, and it was our wish and desire that you should be restored to the possession of your hereditary dominion ; but all things depend upon their appointed season, and this desire has hitherto remained unaccomplished. Now, however, the determined resolution of extirpating the unprincipled race, the English, has been adopted from seeing their faithless conduct ; and the special retinue (meaning Daulat Rao Sindhia and his army) with this intention, advanced from Burhanpur towards the place where that devoted band has taken up its position, accordingly, the victorious troops, in number like ants and locusts, that is to say, ten formidable brigades, a train of artillery consisting of 500 guns, and 200,000 cavalry, are in attendance on us. Please God, in a very short period of time, the

foundations of the fortune of that unprincipled race shall be overthrown, and they shall be expelled from the Deccan, and annihilated. Moreover, General Perron has been directed to cross the Ganges with the brigade under his command, and the cavalry in the service of the Sarkar, and with a body of Sikhs, to take possession of all the territory occupied by the unprincipled race, and not to leave a vestige of that tribe; whilst the cavalry of other formidable armies of the Sarkar, stationed at different places, will proceed from Kalpi, and also from Bundelkhand, to invade the territory of the unprincipled race on every side; and taking advantage of a favourable opportunity, annihilate the whole tribe, and so restore to their hereditary possessions all the chiefs of that country who shall join the cause of the Sarkar in eradicating the foundations of the unprincipled race.

Whereas, adverting to your ancient dominion, your restoration to your hereditary territory is an object in view, it is written with the pen of regard, that immediately on receipt of this letter, you should proceed to assemble as many troops as possible, and to invade the territory of the enemy with the utmost practicable expedition, and employ your exertions in cooperating with General Perron in offensive measures against the unprincipled race, and establish your troops in your hereditary dominions. General Perron has been written to on this subject; do you act in conformity to his suggestions, please God, all will be well. It is incumbent on you, with the utmost firmness, to devote your mind to the object of cooperating with the Sarkar, and to fulfil the obligations of attachment. My satisfaction, and your confirmation in your ancient dominions, will depend on the degree in which you may conform to the above written suggestions. What more need be written?

*N.B.*—The Letter from Sindhia to Bambu Khan, is exactly the same as this, excepting in parts not applicable to Bambu Khan's circumstances.

**No. 158**—In this important despatch detailed instructions of the Governor General regarding the policy to be followed towards Sindhia are conveyed to Collins. He is asked to induce Sindhia not to proceed towards Poona, to explain his chief aim in meeting Bhonsla and finally to return to Hindustan immediately. Arguments are suggested to meet those that might be put forward from the side of Sindhia. Collins is finally asked to inform Sindhia that in case of his non-compliance with the requests put forward by the English, hostilities will begin before long.

**FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Fort William, 3rd June 1803.*

In my letter of the 5th of May I had the honour to transmit to you by the orders of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General,

a document containing the general heads of His Excellency's instructions on the subject of a representation to be made to Daulat Rao Sindhia for the purpose of inducing that Chieftain to recross the Narbada and to return to his dominions in Hindustan. I am now directed to communicate to you the following detailed observations and instructions for the regulation of your conduct in the present crisis of affairs.

While Jaswant Rao Holkar continued at the head of a powerful army in the vicinity of Poona, and maintained in the Maratha State the ascendancy which he had acquired by his successful rebellion against the authority of the Peshwa, and while the result of the measures adopted by the British Government at the solicitation of the Peshwa for His Highness's restoration to the *masnad* of Poona, continued in suspense, Daulat Rao Sindhia would have discharged his duty as a feudatory chieftain of the Maratha Empire in directing the exertion of his power to the extinction of Jaswant Rao Holkar's rebellion, and to the support of the supreme executive authority of the state; and the cooperation of his army with the British troops might have been eventually necessary for that purpose. But Sindhia having in fact made no effort against the menacing power of Holkar, the approach of the British army towards Poona having induced Jaswant Rao Holkar to abandon his design of effecting a revolution in the Peshwa's Government, and to retire with his troops from that capital, and the promptitude and energy of our operations having secured the restoration of the Peshwa to his legitimate authority without the aid of Sindhia, the prosecution of that chieftain's march to Poona, for the purpose either of supporting the cause of the Peshwa, or of providing for the security of his own power and dominions against the ambitious projects of Jaswant Rao Holkar, is now become unnecessary, and under these circumstances, the perseverance of Daulat Rao Sindhia in his intention of marching with his army to Poona can have no other object than the subversion of the arrangements lately concluded between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government, and the re-establishment of his own usurped ascendancy in the state of Poona.

His Excellency bears in mind the formal declaration of Sindhia in his conference with you on the 24th of March 1803, after being apprized of the conclusion of a treaty of defensive alliance between the Peshwa and the British Government that he had no intention to obstruct the completion of that arrangement; but the subsequent conduct of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and the information which His Excellency has received from your despatches and from various other quarters of a projected confederacy between that Chieftain, the Raja of Berar and Jaswant Rao Holkar, afford reason to doubt the sincerity of that declaration. His

Excellency, therefore, deems it necessary to endeavour to preclude the adoption of any designs on the part of Daulat Rao Sindhia of a nature hostile to the British interests by requiring Sindhia either to return with his troops to the northward of the Narbada, or to afford some other unequivocal proof of his intention to refrain from any attempt to disturb the arrangement concluded between the British Government and His Highness; and I am accordingly directed to communicate to you the following observations and instructions for the regulation of your conduct on this occasion conformably to the note which you have already received under date the 5th ultimo.

Any design on the part of Sindhia to aim at the subversion of the late arrangement, must be supposed to originate either in an apprehension that it is directed to objects injurious to his just rights and independence and to the general interests of the Maratha Empire, or in an impatience of that effectual control to which his ambitions and unwarrantable projects are subjected, by the provisions of the alliance concluded with His Highness the Peshwa. With a view to remove from Sindhia's mind any erroneous impressions with regard to the real objects of that alliance, and to convince him of the justice and moderation of our views, His Excellency directed you in my note of the 5th ultimo to communicate to Sindhia the whole of the Treaty of Bassein and to explain to that Chief in the fullest manner the general principles on which it is founded, and the just and moderate views to which it is directed. You were authorized at the same time, if Sindhia should desire it, to furnish him with a copy of the treaty. You will state to Sindhia that the uniform object of the endeavours of the Governor General has been, to establish a permanent foundation of general tranquillity in India, by securing to every state the free enjoyment of its just rights and independence, and by frustrating every project calculated to disturb the possessions or to violate the rights of the established powers of Hindustan or of the Deccan. You will observe to Sindhia that the Treaty of Bassein is founded on the application of this general principle to the circumstances of His Highness the Peshwa's situation and government, and you will particularly explain to Sindhia that while the Treaty of Bassein establishes His Highness the Peshwa in the full and independent exercise of his legitimate authority in the Maratha State, it provides the most effectual security for the preservation of the respective interests and possessions of all the Maratha Chieftains within the limits of their separate dominions and authorities; that the treaty being exclusively of a defensive nature, imposes no restraint upon any state or power which shall respect the rights and possessions of the British Government and of its allies, and that no right or power to interfere in the internal concerns of any of the Maratha Chiefs can be derived from the stipulations of that treaty, beyond the limits of the Peshwa's legitimate authority, to maintain which is equally the duty of

His Highness's subjects, feudatories and allies. Finally, you will endeavour to convince Daulat Rao Sindhia, that in concluding the late alliance with His Highness the Peshwa, the objects of the Governor General are, to secure the British dominions and those of our ally, the Nizam, from dangers of contiguous anarchy and confusion, to fulfil the duties of friendship towards our ally, the Peshwa, and to provide at the same time for the safety of the several branches of the Maratha Empire without disturbing the constitutional form of the state, and without affecting the legitimate independence of its feudatory chieftains; and that this course of policy must tend to strengthen the bonds of amity and alliance with Daulat Rao Sindhia, as well as with every other branch of the Maratha power.

It will be proper that you should point out to Daulat Rao Sindhia those stipulations of the Treaty of Bassein which contain an explicit disavowal of any intention on the part either of His Highness the Peshwa or of the British Government, to molest any of the Maratha Chieftains who shall not place himself in the condition of a public enemy by the adoption of measures hostile to the rights and interests of the British Government and its allies.

Although it may not be difficult to convince Daulat Rao Sindhia of the justice and moderation of our view in concluding the late alliance with the Peshwa, and to remove from his mind all apprehension of danger to the security of his legitimate rights and independence from the operation of the Treaty of Bassein, it is not to be expected that he will be immediately disposed to subscribe cordially to an arrangement, by which the prosecution of his known projects of ambition will be effectually controlled, and his ascendancy in the state of Poona will be permanently excluded. You will observe to Sindhia, however, that his ascendancy at Poona had in fact been annihilated by the success of Holkar before Sindhia applied for the interposition of the British power, and that the success of Holkar had at the same time greatly endangered the existence of Sindhia as a power in India. If, therefore, in the restoration of the Peshwa to His Highness's legitimate authority a due restraint has been imposed on the usurpations of Sindhia as well as on those of Holkar upon the established supreme power of the Maratha Empire, Sindhia should be taught to reflect, that by submitting to this sacrifice, he will acquire additional security to his own legitimate power, and that he has already derived the preservation of a considerable part of his dominions from the check which has been opposed to the progress of Holkar's arms.

You will be prepared to oppose any arguments founded on Sindhia's alleged rights and privileges as a branch of the Maratha Empire, by which

Sindhia may contest the right of the Peshwa to conclude political engagements with the British Government, or with any foreign power, without the previous consent and concurrence of the feudatory chieftains, or may endeavour to justify his interference in the late arrangements, or assert a right to participate in the future administration of the Peshwa's affairs.

Under the instructions of His Excellency the Governor General you have already successfully combated the principle assumed by Daulat Rao Sindhia, that as guarantee to the Treaty of Salbai his previous consent to the engagements between the British Government and the Peshwa should have been obtained. No such principle can in His Excellency's judgment be maintained by any arrangements derived either from the original constitution of the Maratha Empire, or from the actual practice of the several chieftains composing the Maratha Confederacy. The exclusive right of concluding treaties and engagements with foreign states, not of a nature to compromise the separate rights and interests of the feudatory chieftains of the empire, must be considered to be inherent in the supreme executive authority of the Maratha State, and it may be a question whether the Peshwa acting in the name and under the ostensible sanction of the nominal head of the Empire, might not conclude treaties which shall be obligatory upon the subordinate chiefs and feudatories, without their concurrence. But even under a contrary supposition, it would be absurd to regulate any political question by the standard of a constitution, which time and events have entirely altered or dissolved. The late Mahadji Sindhia and his successor Daulat Rao have uniformly exercised the powers of independent dominion, by making war on the neighbouring states, by concluding engagements with them and by regulating the whole system of their internal administration without the participation or previous consent of the Peshwa, whose supremacy, however, both Mahadji Sindhia and Daulat Rao Sindhia have uniformly acknowledged.

Daulat Rao Sindhia, therefore, cannot, even on the supposed principles of the original constitution, deny the right of the Peshwa to conclude his late engagements with the British Government independently of his concurrence, without impeaching the validity of his own proceedings and those of his predecessor ; nor can he according to the more admissible rules derived from practice and prescription, justly refuse to admit the exercise of those independent rights of dominion, on the part of the Peshwa, which both Sindhia and his predecessor assumed in a condition of acknowledged subordination to His Highness's paramount authority.

The Raja of Berar is known to entertain pretensions to the authority of the Shahu Raja and on the accession of a Peshwa he is admitted to the privilege of investing the Peshwa with a *khilat*. Under these circumstances the Raja of Berar's acknowledgment of subordination to the paramount authority of the Peshwah, may be doubted. But while the Peshwa continues to exercise that authority in his capacity of representative of the Shahu Raja, the Raja of Berar cannot possess the right of controlling the Peshwa's actions.

In proportion as the Raja of Berar disclaims the supremacy of the Peshwa he has less right to interfere in any degree in the Peshwa's concerns. The Peshwa must be considered by the Raja of Berar, either as the representative of the Raja of Berar's paramount sovereign, or as an independent state in amity with the Raja of Berar, or as a power acknowledged by every other state in India, but which it is the secret design of the Raja of Berar to subvert with a view to supersede its authority for his own aggrandizement. In any of these cases and more especially in the last, the other powers of India cannot admit the right of the Raja of Berar to control the Peshwa's intercourse with other states unless the Peshwa shall attempt to injure the independence of the Raja of Berar.

The arguments stated in the (10th and 11th) preceding paragraphs are equally applicable to Daulat Rao Sindhia's assumption of a right to interfere in any manner in the arrangement concluded between the British Government and the Peshwa, or in the future administration of His Highness's affairs. Such interference is incompatible with the complete and effectual operation of our engagements with His Highness; and the right to secure their due operation is necessarily combined with the right to contract them.

Sindhia cannot justly deny the right of the Peshwa and of the British Government to conclude the terms of a defensive alliance without his previous consent, nor claim the right of interfering in the arrangement or in the future administration of the Peshwa's affairs on the ground of his having employed his arms and resources in the support of the Peshwa's cause.

Sindhia did not originally take up arms for the defence of the Peshwa. He had long been engaged in a contest with Jaswant Rao Holkar, whose frequent successes and increasing power menaced the security of Sindhia's dominion, and the unsuccessful resistance which the forces of Daulat Rao Sindhia opposed to those of Holkar in the vicinity of Poona, was merely a continuation of the contest. The efforts of Sindhia to check the progress of Holkar's arms were necessary for the preservation of his own power, and the object of his exertions was not changed by the danger to which the state of Poona was exposed by the approach of Holkar

to that capital. The preservation of Sindhia's usurped ascendancy in the state of Poona and the security of his own dominions which would have been more than ever endangered by the establishment of Holkar at the capital of Poona, rendered the protection of the person and government of the Peshwa, an object of individual interest to Sindhia; and the same motives must be supposed to have influenced his subsequent operations. His exertions, however, have not contributed in any degree to the Peshwa's restoration. Aware of the doubtful issue of a further contest with the arms of Holkar, Sindhia solicited the cooperation of the British power and continued in a state of inactivity at a considerable distance from the scene of action. The energy, promptitude and power of the British Government were the exclusive causes which compelled Jaswant Rao Holkar to abandon his design of subverting the dominion of the Peshwa and of establishing his own authority upon its ruins and to retire from Poona, deprived him of the means of supporting his military power, and secured the restoration of the Peshwa to his capital and government, and to these reasonable and arduous exertions of the British power, Sindhia is absolutely indebted for the present secure possession of his dominion.

The combined result of all these facts and arguments, is that the interposition of the British power for the restoration of the Peshwa and the conclusion of the late alliance with the state of Poona, is not only warrantable upon every principle of justice and the law of nations, but indispensably necessary to the preservation of the integrity of the Maratha Empire, and to the security of the legitimate rights and interests of its respective branches, and especially of Sindhia; that those rights and interests are effectually secured by the terms of the alliance, and consequently that any attempt on the part of any state or chieftain to disturb the operation of the Treaty of Bassein, may justly be considered to be an act of hostility against the British Government.

Under all these circumstances, we possess an undoubted right to require that Daulat Rao Sindhia should afford the most unequivocal proofs of his resolution to abstain from the adoption of any measures, which we may deem to be calculated to impede the accomplishment of the late arrangements in the Maratha State.

The most satisfactory evidence of that intention would be the immediate return of Sindhia to his dominions north of the Narbada, and if the report of an accommodation of differences between that Chieftain and Jaswant Rao Holkar be well founded, Sindhia cannot reasonably object to comply with your requisition for that purpose. Sindhia may, however, maintain that his continuance to the southward of that river is necessary for the purpose of opposing the hostile designs of Holkar, or for adjusting the terms of an accommodation with that Chieftain. In either of those events, your own judgment and the knowledge, which you



will possess of the actual state of affairs in the Maratha territory to the southward of the Narbada, will enable you in concert with Major-General Wellesley and with Colonel Close, to determine whether this objection is well founded, or whether it is stated merely as a pretext for Sindhia's refusal to comply with your requisition. In the latter case, you will distinctly explain to Sindhia that his continuance in that position without any other apparent motive connected with the security of his just rights and with the exigency of his affairs, can only be considered to indicate designs injurious to the combined interests of the British Government and its allies, and will render necessary the immediate adoption of the most active measures to compel his return within the limits of his northern dominions.

If Sindhia should be sincerely desirous of effecting an accommodation with Jaswant Rao Holkar you will offer the mediation of the British Government for that purpose, consulting with Major-General Wellesley and with Colonel Close respecting the terms of any such accommodation.

If it should appear to you that any important interests of Daulat Rao Sindhia would be exposed to hazard by his immediate return towards Hindustan, you are at liberty to recede from this requisition, provided that Sindhia shall afford some other unequivocal proof of his determination to refrain from any attempt to obstruct the complete operation of the Treaty of Bassein, and that such proof shall be satisfactory to Major-General Wellesley and to Colonel Close with whom you will communicate fully on this subject, but it will be proper to apprize Sindhia that his proceeding to Poona under any pretext whatever, except by the express permission of His Highness the Peshwa, approved by the British Government, will infallibly involve him in possibilities with the British power. If Sindhia should be permitted by the Peshwa, Major-General Wellesley and Colonel Close to proceed to Poona, Sindhia must not be accompanied by any number of troops exceeding the strength of a reasonable escort of state. If Sindhia should urge the necessity of his proceeding to Poona for the purpose of adjusting any demands which he may have on the Peshwa, you will inform him that the British Government is ready to arbitrate such demands on principles of justice and equity, and that under that proffered security for the equitable adjustment of his claims, his proceeding to Poona in person for that purpose is neither necessary, nor admissible.

The repeated information which His Excellency the Governor General has received of a projected confederacy between Sindhia the Raja of Berar and Jaswant Rao Holkar renders it necessary in His Excellency's judgment, that Sindhia should be required either to disavow such intended confederacy or distinctly to declare the object of it.

If Sindhia should avow that design or should declare his intention to march for the purpose of meeting the Raja of Berar without affording

a satisfactory explanation with regard to the object of that proceeding, or if you should obtain authentic intelligence of any such design on the part of Sindhia, and if he should not afford you a satisfactory explanation according to the spirit of these instructions, you will intimate to Sindhia that in the actual situation of affairs the British Government will be justified in considering that proceeding to be directed to purposes hostile to its interests and to those of its allies, and will be compelled to adopt corresponding measures of precaution and defence, and you will signify to Daulat Rao Sindhia that his intended interview with Raghuji Bhonsla will not be considered as a sufficient plea for postponing his return to Hindustan, unless preceded by the most satisfactory proofs of the pacific designs of those Chieftains. You will inform Sindhia that His Excellency the Governor General has addressed a representation in the spirit of these instructions to the Raja of Berar and has expressed to that Chieftain his resolution to anticipate any sinister project on his part with the utmost degree of promptitude and alacrity.

You will also require from Sindhia an explanation with regard to the object of any confederacy meditated or concluded between him and Jaswant Rao Holkar.

You are already in possession of the instructions of the Governor General for the eventual negotiation of the terms of a defensive alliance with Daulat Rao Sindhia. It will be proper on this occasion to renew the Governor General's propositions to Sindhia for that purpose, informing him that His Excellency is disposed either to admit Sindhia as a contracting party to the Treaty of Bassein, or to conclude a separate subsidiary alliance with Sindhia; and stating to Sindhia the manifest advantages to the stability of his government and to the prosperity of his affairs which the proposed connection is calculated to secure. But if the dictates of an erroneous policy should induce Sindhia to reject those proposals you will assure him that the British Government will not be offended at his refusal, that he is at liberty to remain entirely unconnected with the British power, and that this government will continue to maintain the relations of amity and peace which have so long subsisted between the two states and to abstain from any attempt to injure his rights to control his independence, unless the circumstances of his conduct should compel the British Government to pursue an opposite course of measures. You will at the same time apprise Sindhia of the determined resolution of the Governor General to resist with the full force and energy of the British power, any attempt on the part of Sindhia or on that of any other power or state, to obstruct the operation of the Treaty of Bassein or to injure the interests of the British Government or of its allies, and that the formation of any confederacy or the prosecution of any military operations on the part of Sindhia in opposition to the repeated remonstrances of the British Government will compel the adoption of measures of precaution on our part on every boundary of Sindhia's dominions.

The first pledge of Sindhia's amicable intentions even if he should be disposed to accede to the Treaty of Bassein, must be his immediate return to the northward of the Narbada excepting under the circumstances stated in the 17th and 19th paragraphs of this despatch. You will, however, be particularly cautious in regulating your conduct by the tenor of any of those exceptions which have been admitted by the Governor-General rather for the purpose of removing any undue obstacle to the exercise of your discretion under any local exigency which may arise, than from any expectation that Sindhia can afford the British Government any satisfactory security for his pacific disposition while he shall remain with an army to the southward of the Narbada. The expediency of Sindhia's return to the northward may be enforced by an exposition of the danger to which Sindhia's dominion and possessions will be exposed by his perseverance in a system of policy which must be considered to be hostile to the British Government and its allies.

The nature of the existing connection between the honourable Company and His Highness the Nizam is so well known to Sindhia, that he must be aware of the consequences of any aggression against that ally of the British Government ; but it may be proper to remind Sindhia on this occasion, that any attack on the territories of His Highness will be considered to be an act of hostility against the British Government, and will be resented with the whole force of the British power.

His Excellency the Governor General confidently expects that the amicable representations which you are instructed to make to Sindhia, will convince that Chief of the justice and moderation of our views in concluding the late alliance with His Highness the Peshwa, and will induce him to refrain from the adoption of any measures directed to the subversion of that alliance and injuries to the rights and interests of the British Government and its allies.

Sindhia must be sensible of the peculiar disadvantages under which he would enter upon a contest with the British arms, although supported by the combined power of the Raja of Berar and of Jaswant Rao Holkar, and must be aware that his temerity in provoking the resentment of the British Government must expose to imminent hazard the existence of his own powers.

You have already been furnished with a copy of His Excellency the Governor General's detailed instructions to the Resident at Poona, and you will have been apprized by those instructions of the precautionary measures which have been adopted with a view to eventual hostilities with Sindhia, Holkar or the Raja of Berar.

In the present situation of affairs it is of the utmost importance that your communication with the honourable Major-General Wellesley

and with the Resident at Poona should be conducted by the most expeditious channel of conveyance and you will accordingly make every effort in your power to accelerate the dak from Sindhia's camp to Poona and to the camp of General Wellesley.

Copies of these instructions will be transmitted to the honourable Major-General Wellesley and to the Residents at Poona and Hyderabad. You will be careful to apprise His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief at Cawnpore from time to time of the temper and disposition of Sindhia and of the effect of the remonstrances which you have been directed to address to that Chief.

You will receive by this dispatch from the Persian Department a letter which His Excellency the Governor General has thought proper to address to Daulat Rao Sindhia on the present occasion. You will deliver that letter to Daulat Rao Sindhia at such time as you may judge most advisable.

**No. 159**—In this personal letter to Sindhia the Governor General points out to him that any attempt to invade or interfere with their allies will force the English to take up arms against him. He puts down all of his demands for Sindhia's immediate compliance and adds that there was nothing unconstitutional in the Peshwa concluding the Treaty of Bassein with the English.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 3rd June, 1803.*

I have received the satisfactory intelligence of His Highness the Peshwa's actual restoration to the *masnad* of Poona under the protection of the British power, and in conformity to the treaty of defensive alliance concluded at Bassein between His Highness and the British Government.

You have long since been apprized of the general nature of the engagements concluded with His Highness the Peshwa, and I received with great satisfaction from Colonel Collins the information of your entire concurrence in the expediency and wisdom of the measures undertaken by the British Government for His Highness's restoration, accompanied by a declared intention on your part to abstain from any measures calculated to obstruct the completion of the arrangements established under the Treaty of Bassein.

This resolution manifested your wisdom as well as your good faith; and your declaration to Colonel Collins was conformable to the principles of prudence and policy which dictated your direct application contained

in your letter (received 15th January, 1803) for the cooperation of the British power for the purpose of restoring His Highness the Peshwa to the *masnad*.

With this experience of your public declarations, and in possession of your authentic letters under your signature and seal, I am disposed to discredit the reports which have reached me of the formation of a confederacy between you, the Raja of Berar and Jaswant Rao Holkar, directed to the subversion of the arrangements concluded at Bassein, nor can I credit the rumour of your supposed intention to meet the Raja of Berar on the frontier of His Highness the Nizam's dominions, in order to concert with the Chieftain the measures to be adopted for the purpose of defeating the treaty lately concluded between the British Government and His Highness the Peshwa. The credit of these reports is, however, in some degree sustained by the information which I have received of your having actually marched in the direction of the Nizam's frontier, and of the Raja of Berar having entered his tents with a design of meeting you.

Compelled reluctantly to direct my attention to reports, of which I still hope that you will enable me to detect the falsehood, the obligations of friendship as well as the laws of prudence and precaution require that I should declare to you, without reserve, my sentiments and resolutions in the event of your actually entertaining the design of interfering between the British Government and any of its allies, especially the Nizam or the Peshwa, or of violating the rights or possessions of the Company or of any state connected with it by alliance or friendship. The interposition of the British power for the restoration of His Highness the Peshwa to the *masnad*, and the arrangements concluded between His Highness and the British Government, in no degree disturb your just rights and authority, or the general interests and prosperity of the Maratha Empire. Before this dispatch can reach you, you will have been apprized of the full extent of the engagements concluded between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government by the Treaty of Bassein. An examination of the articles of the treaty will demonstrate the justice, moderation and honourable policy of those engagements, and a review of the late transactions in the Maratha Empire will be sufficient to convince you that the interposition of the aid of the British Government for the restoration of His Highness the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona, far from having a tendency to subvert the order of the Maratha State, afforded the only means of averting confusion, and of providing for the future security and tranquillity of every branch of Maratha power.

The success of Jaswant Rao Holkar had completely established the ascendancy of his power in the Maratha State, and his views have been demonstrated by his attempt to destroy the Peshwa's Government and to assume the entire authority of the Maratha Empire. You must acknowledge

the danger to which your interests and those of the other Maratha Chieftains were exposed by the extraordinary success of Jaswant Rao Holkar ; in the moment of his victory your prudence and wisdom foresaw the approaching ruin of your power. And in the persuasion that the progress of his success must destroy your dominions, you solicited and obtained the powerful and seasonable aid of the British Government. The Maratha Empire and your power have been preserved by the timely interposition of the British Government at a moment when the distance of your army from the scene of action precluded the possibility of any effectual aid from you.

The arrangements connected with the interposition of the British Government have effected the restoration, and provided for the future stability of the Peshwa's just authority and have afforded additional security for the legitimate and separate rights of the feudatory chieftains of the Empire.

Under the Treaty of Bassein those chieftains are effectually protected against any molestation either on the part of His Highness the Peshwa or the British Government, unless any chief should place himself in the condition of a public enemy to the state ; at the same time an option is afforded to all the principal chieftains of participating in the defensive alliance.

The constitution of the Maratha State, and the authority of various precedents, have established the independent right of His Highness the Peshwa to contract with foreign powers all such engagements as shall not affect the separate rights and interests of his feudatory chieftains and that right is inherent in the supreme executive authority of the Maratha State.

The objects of the Treaty of Bassein are, to secure the British dominions and those of our ally, the Nizam, from the dangers of contiguous anarchy and confusion, to fulfil the duties of friendship towards our ally, the Peshwa, and to provide at the same time for the safety of the several branches of the Maratha Empire without disturbing the constitutional form of the state, and without affecting the legitimate independence of its feudatory chieftains. This course of policy is calculated to strengthen the bonds of amity and alliance with your government, as well as with every other branch of the Maratha power.

Under these circumstances, therefore, I deem it necessary to signify to you my determined resolution to accomplish the provisions of the treaty now concluded with His Highness the Peshwa ; any attempt on the part of any state or power to obstruct the operation of that treaty, any combination among the Maratha Chieftains directed to that purpose must be deemed an act of hostile aggression against the Peshwa and the British Government.

I have been informed by Colonel Collins that it is your intention to proceed with your army to Poona. The original object of your march towards that capital having been completely accomplished by the exertions of the British power, the prosecution of your march to Poona is obviously unnecessary for any purpose connected either with your own security or with the interests of His Highness the Peshwa. I shall, therefore, be justified in considering that measure to be an unequivocal indication of your resolution to attempt the subversion of the late arrangement concluded between His Highness and the British Government, and in that event the British Government will be compelled to adopt measures calculated to counteract such unwarrantable designs.

For the same reason your continuance to the southward of the Narbada at the head of a powerful body of your forces, is equally unnecessary, and is calculated to excite apprehensions with regard to the nature of your designs. I confidently expect, therefore, to receive early intelligence of your having commenced your return to the northward of that river.

The British Government is disposed to arbitrate, on principles of equity and justice, any demands which you may have on His Highness the Peshwa. The settlement of such demands, therefore, cannot be considered to be a justifiable plea for your proceeding to Poona. The British Government is also willing to arbitrate any differences which may subsist between you and Jaswant Rao Holkar, with whom it is my wish to maintain peace, provided he shall manifest a disposition to relinquish every inordinate pretension and to accept reasonable terms of accommodation with the Peshwa and with the other powers whose dominions he has invaded and whose rights he has violated.

If the reports of your intention to enter into a confederacy with the Raja of Berar should be well founded, the British Government has a right to expect that you will explain the motives and objects of such a confederacy, with the same degree of candour which I have manifested in communicating to you the views and intentions of the British Government in concluding the late arrangements with His Highness the Peshwa. I deem it necessary to apprise you that I have addressed to the Raja of Berar representations similar to those contained in this letter. I have expressed to that Chieftain my solicitude to maintain with him unimpaired the relations of peace and amity, and I have, at the same time, communicated to him my resolution to resist any attempt on his part, either singly or combined with any other state, to obstruct the accomplishment of the Treaty of Bassein.

I further deem it to be necessary to remind you that, in conformity to the defensive engagements subsisting between the British Government

and His Highness the Nizam, any attack upon His Highness's territories must be considered to be an act of aggression against the British Government.

It is my earnest desire to maintain with you the relations of amity and peace, but at the same time it is my determined resolution to resist any attempt on your part to violate the rights, or to injure the interests of the British Government or of its allies.

If a just regard to the real interests and prosperity of your government should dispose you to conclude defensive engagements with the honourable Company, similar to those which have been contracted with His Highness the Peshwa, I shall be ready to enter into a negotiation with you for that purpose. The ties of friendship however will not be relaxed by your resolution to remain unconnected with the powers allied by the Treaties of Hyderabad and Bassein.

Whatever may be your determination with regard to this proposal, I shall continue to maintain with cordial solicitude the relations of amity and peace which have so long subsisted between the British Government and you, unless you shall compel me to pursue a contrary course. I trust, to your wisdom and good faith, that you will rather endeavour to strengthen the ties of amity and goodwill, than to favour the evil designs of the enemies of both states by listening to any counsels adverse to the stability of the friendship which now happily subsists between us.

I have instructed Colonel Collins to communicate fully with you on all the points stated in this letter, to which I shall anxiously expect to receive a speedy and amicable reply.

**No. 160**—Collins points out to Close that it is most advisable that the Peshwa should prohibit the advance of Sindhia and Bhonsla to Poona.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Camp near Chikhli, 3rd June 1803.*

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a copy of my address of this date to His Excellency. Notwithstanding the observations of Balaji Kunjar, stated in that address, I am convinced that the interests of the general defensive alliance would be greatly promoted, were His Highness the Peshwa to prohibit the advance of both Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raja Raghuji Bhonsla to Poona.



**No. 161**—Collins informs the Governor General about the forthcoming meeting of Sindhia and Bhonsla and adds that so far as he could gather it is not likely that the two Maratha Chiefs will advance towards Poona before the end of the coming rainy season.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp Near Chikhli, 3rd June 1803.*

Raghuji Bhonsla is arrived at Malkapur. Tomorrow morning Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Bhonsla will meet midway between their respective camps, each attended by a party of two hundred horsemen; but I understand that no business will be transacted at this meeting, nor until an interchange of ceremonial visits has taken place between those Chieftains.

Yesterday Jadu Rao Bhaskar rejoined the Maharaja, with whom he had a long conference last night, at which no other person whatever was admitted. Having been informed that Balaji Kunjar had seen and conversed with Jadu Rao Bhaskar I sent my Munshi to the tent of the former this morning, in order to discover the sentiments of Sindhia's confidential minister on the present state of affairs.

Balaji seems to be of opinion, that Jadu Rao Bhaskar is greatly disgusted at the instability lately evinced by the ministers of Sindhia, and thinks that Jadu Rao will in consequence relinquish his situation shortly after the interview between Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla. The Poona vakil also told my Munshi, that this court was dissatisfied with the general tenor of the Treaty of Bassein, and moreover said that it never was the intention of His Highness the Peshwa to make Sindhia acquainted with the particulars of the engagements which he had entered into with the British Government.

My Munshi asked Balaji Kunjar, whether His Highness the Peshwa had ever written to the Maharaja to request that he would not advance to Poona? The vakil replied, that to the best of his knowledge and belief, Baji Rao had not written any letter to that effect to Daulat Rao Sindhia; and on my Munshi's repeating this question, Balaji returned the same answer, adding, that the prohibition appeared unnecessary at present, as the Maharaja could not advance to that capital until the expiration of the ensuing rains, on account of the great scarcity of forage, all the way from here to Poona.

J I learn from several quarters, that the force of the Berar Raja consists of ten battalions of infantry, and 20,000 cavalry; my present

information regarding the amount and description of his artillery is too vague to authorize my hazarding any statement thereof to Your Excellency.

Khande Rao Holkar has been delivered over to Raghuji Bhonsla, and the city of Indore to Jaswant Rao's *amil*.

**No. 162**—Collins is informed of the intrigues going on in the province of Bundelkhand to invade and oppose the English in those parts.

FROM—R. AHMUTY, THE COLLECTOR OF ALLAHABAD,

TO—COL. J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Allahabad, 7th June 1803.*

I beg leave to transmit to you two letters I have received from Mr. John Meiselback, communicating the orders which the Raja and Nawab Ghani Bahadur have received from Sindhia, for making predatory incursions into the Company's territories. Since the receipt of the letters in question, I have been informed that a large party of Maratha horse have already assembled at Kalpi, and another party are now assembling at Augasi, opposite to the town of Fatehpur in this district.

As some serious alarm may be apprehended from the party assembling at Augasi, with the advice of Colonel Kid I have forwarded a copy of Mr. Meiselback's last letter, and an extract from the first to the Commander-in-Chief.

**No. 163**—Close is informed that even in his last letter the Peshwa has not expressly asked Sindhia to refrain from going to Poona, while earlier he had expressly invited him there.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT WITH THE PESHWA.

*Camp near Chikhli, 7th June 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, enclosing a copy of an address from His Highness the Peshwa, to Daulat Rao Sindhia. Immediately on receiving this transcript I sent Mirza Bakar Khan to Balaji Kunjar in order to submit the same to the perusal of that wakil.

When Balaji had read the letter of His Highness, he said that it certainly represented the great distress prevailing at Poona, and so far discouraged the advance of the Maharaja to that capital. But that this letter did not request Sindhia to refrain from marching to Poona, while, on the other hand, His Highness had repeatedly written to the Maharaja expressly inviting him to proceed to that city.

I have, also, been favoured with your dispatch of the 2nd instant forwarding official papers, which you received from the honourable Major-General Arthur Wellesley, on the subject of the depredations, stated, by Daulat Rao Sindhia, to have been committed at Choomar-goondah [Shrigonda] by the followers of the British army.

As these papers contain the most satisfactory refutation of the above charge, they shall be translated into Persian, without loss of time, and fully explained to the Maharaja by my Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan.

**No. 164**—In this important letter Collins informs the Governor General about the visit of Mirza Bakar to Bhonsla, who was then at Malkapur.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Chikhli, 7th June 1803.*

On the 5th instant, Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan waited on Raghuji Bhonsla, with a note from me, in which, after explaining the nature of my appointment at the court of Daulat Rao Sindhia, I told the Raja, that as well in consideration of the amicable connection which had so long subsisted between his Sarkar, and the British Government, as on account of the sincere friendship that I well knew Your Excellency entertained for his person, I considered it as a proper mark of respect, on my part, to send a confidential servant to inquire after his health, and to congratulate him on his arrival at Malkapur.

Raghuji Bhonsla behaved with great kindness towards Mirza Bakar, and appeared to be much gratified by the compliment I had paid him. The Raja said, that among the Maratha Chiefs, [he] was the oldest friend of the English, and added, it was his sincere wish that no alteration whatever should take place in the relations of amity which had subsisted

so many years, between the two Sarkars. Mirza Bakar observed, in reply, that Your Excellency's sentiments on this subject were exactly similar to those which the Raja had now delivered; and then asked Raghuji Bhonsla, whether he had received any letter of a recent date, from Your Lordship. The Raja said that one had reached him the preceding night, together with a copy of the Treaty of Bassein. That as yet, the contents of Your Lordship's letter had not been fully explained, neither had the treaty been translated into the Marathi language; but that in a day or two at furthest, he should be apprized of all particulars, and would take an early occasion of replying to Your Excellency's address. The Raja then requested Mirza Bakar would remain in his camp until the next day when he should receive an answer to the note which he had delivered from me.

While my Munshi continued in the camp of the Berar Raja he formed an acquaintance with Shridhar Pant Bapu, who is, I understand the servant in whom Raghuji Bhonsla chiefly confides. This minister assured Mirza Bakar, that until the receipt of Your Lordship's last letter, his master knew not that a treaty had, actually, been concluded between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government, Jadu Rao Bhau having simply stated to the Berar Raja and his ministers, that a treaty was, now, negotiating between His Highness, and the English.

Although the whole of Your Excellency's letter had not been explained to Raghuji Bhonsla, yet, Mirza Bakar says, it was apparent from his conversation that he knew a great part of its contents; and upon the report which my Munshi made on his return from this visit, I have every reason to hope that Your Lordship's representations to this Chieftain will be productive of the happiest effects.

I have just been informed that Ambaji Ingle requested permission of Daulat Rao Sindhia to repair to Kalpi and Jhansi, in order that he might provide for the security of these districts which were endangered by the hostile preparations on the part of the English. In reply the Maharaja told Ambaji that he could not comply with his request until he had held a secret consultation with the Berar Raja, which would certainly take place three days hence.

Should Daulat Rao intimate to me after a conference with Raghuji Bhonsla that he is desirous of maintaining the relations of friendship that formerly subsisted between his Sarkar and the British Government, or should he even express a wish to become a member of the general defensive

alliance, I shall in either event explicitly state to the Maharaja that Your Excellency required in proof of the sincerity of his friendly disposition towards the English and their allies, that he should immediately recross the Narbada and repair to his possessions in Hindustan. Nor can Sindhia plead the advanced state of the monsoon in excuse for not complying with Your Lordship's proposition, since contrary to expectation no heavy rain has yet fallen in this quarter, but only light showers which cannot have rendered the roads impassable for his artillery.

**No. 165**—Collins reports to the Governor General that all efforts to obtain an answer from Sindhia having failed he had sent a memorial to Sindhia, which was presented by Mirza Bakar Khan in the morning of June 12. But even this memorial failed to elicit the required answer.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Chikhli, 12th June 1803.*

On the evening of the 8th instant, Raghuji Bhonsla paid a visit to Daulat Rao Sindhia, when these Chieftains conferred together in private for several hours. On the following day I directed Ganpat Rai to intimate to the Maharaja, that as he had now had an interview with the Berar Raja, it was absolutely incumbent on him to give me an immediate and explicit answer to the question, which I had stated on the 28th ultimo at his Durbar.

My agent, Ganpat Rai, could not obtain an audience of Daulat Rao Sindhia until the 10th instant, on account of the inclemency of the weather, but in the morning of that day he delivered my message to the Maharaja and the enclosure (No. 1) contains a copy and translate of the reply that he received on this occasion. Yesterday Jadu Rao Bhau had a long and secret conference with Daulat Rao Sindhia, after which Ganpat Rai waited on the minister, and urged him to declare whether this court intended peace or war with the English; but could obtain no satisfactory answer.

As it appeared to me that the evasive conduct of this Durbar was practised solely with a view to gain time, and having been informed that Jaswant Rao Holkar was actually on his march to join the Maharaja, I conceived that Your Excellency would deem me inexcusable was I to defer bringing the question of peace or war to an immediate issue. Accordingly I addressed a memorial to Daulat Rao Sindhia calculated to produce this effect, and I herewith do myself the honour to forward copies thereof (No. 2) in English and Persian, for the information of Your Lordship.

Mirza Bakar Khan went from hence about an hour ago, accompanied by Ganpat Rai, in order to present the memorial to the Maharaja ; and I shall not close this letter until his return, that Your Lordship may be apprized by this dak of the result of my present representation. At the same time I shall transmit copies of my memorial, and of the reply of Daulat Rao Sindhia to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and to the honourable Major-General Arthur Wellesley.

Ever since the night of the 7th instant it has rained incessantly at this place, and so violently at one period, that my dining tent had three feet of water in it, although the ground of our encampment is rather elevated. The distress which has prevailed here for some days past is really great ; *Atta* sells at five seers for a rupee, gram at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , and grass is scarcely procurable even at the rate of 15 rupees for one bullock load. The foregoing detail will enable Your Excellency to form a judgment of the wretched state to which Sindhia's troops will be reduced in the event of his prosecuting hostilities, since the prices of all kinds of provisions will, it is expected, daily increase. Moreover, there is not, I am credibly informed, fifty thousand rupees in the camp of the Maharaja and the shroffs will not assist him with money on account of the losses which they have already sustained by confiding in the promises of the ministers of this court.

I am concerned to acquaint Your Excellency, that all communications between this camp and that of the Berar Raja has been rendered impracticable ever since the night of the 8th instant, by reason of the overflowing of the Sina *Nadi*, which divides the two encampments. Mirza Bakar Khan has in consequence failed in several attempts which he has made by my directions, for the purpose of awaiting on Raghujee Bhonsla, in order to ascertain what effect the perusal of Your Lordship's letter of the 13th ultimo had produced on the mind of that Chieftain, a circumstance of which I was very desirous to be informed in the present critical situation of affairs.

Mirza Bakar and Ganpat Rai are this instant returned. When they were admitted to the presence of Daulat Rao Sindhia, no person was with him but Balaji Kunjar ; Munshi Kavalnavan being indisposed,

the Maharaja desired Mirza Baker to explain to him the contents of my memorial ; and when this had been done, Sindhia said, that as yet he had not conferred with the Raja of Berar on matters of business, but that I might rely on having the explanation I required in two or three days. Mirza Bakar requested that his answer might be committed to writing, but which the Maharaja would not permit. The Mirza and Ganpat Rai then took their leave of him, in order to return to me.

On receiving this verbal reply, I wrote to Daulat Rao Sindhia that I considered it as final, and therefore sincerely lamented its tendency ; at the same time I requested, that the Maharaja would order his servants to supply me with grain as soon as possible, it being my intention to proceed to Aurangabad without delay. To my certain knowledge Sindhia held a private conference of nearly three hours with Raghujī Bhonsla on the 8th of this month.

**No. 165A—Enclosure.**

*Translate of an Arzi from Ganpat Rai to Col. John Collins ;  
10th June, 1803.*

Agreably to your orders I stated to the Maharaja that as he had now, by the favour of God, both seen and conferred with Raja Raghujī Bhonsla, a regard to the interests of his government rendered it expedient for him to give an answer this day, according to his promise, to the representation made to him by you on the part of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, and that further delay on the occasion would be improper. The Maharaja replied, that the rain and the swelling of the Sina Nadi had prevented Jadu Rao from coming to the Durbar, and that on his own part, he had not yet returned the visit of Raja Raghujī Bhonsla, that, however, when the rain should abate, and the water of the Nadi subside, the required answer should be given.

**No. 165B—Enclosure.**

*Copy of the Memorial addressed to Sindhia by Collins, presented by  
Mirza Bakar Khan, on the morning of 12th June, 1803.*

When Colonel Collins had the honour of an audience with Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia on the 6th of Safar (28th May), the Colonel, by order of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, urged many cogent reasons and persuasions to induce the Maharaja to declare,

without delay or reserve, whether the late negotiations carried on between this court, the Berar Raja and Jaswant Rao Holkar, had been entered into for the purpose of obstructing the completion of the engagements lately concluded at Bassein between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government.

But although Colonel Collins was extremely urgent with the Maharaja to give him instant information on this important point, and although the Colonel particularly pointed out the line of conduct which the British Government would be compelled to pursue, should the required explanation be withheld, yet the ministers of this Durbar repeatedly declared that Colonel Collins must not expect any satisfactory answer to the question until a meeting had taken place between the Maharaja and the Raja of Berar. Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia also said, that he could not, without a violation of his faith, give Colonel Collins the satisfaction he demanded, until he (the Maharaja) had conversed with Raghuji Bhonsla, but that after his interview with that Raja the Colonel should be informed whether there would be peace or war.

The proposed conference between Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Raja of Berar having taken place, Colonel Collins now expects that the Maharaja will, conformably to his promise, explicitly declare, whether it be his design to obstruct the completion of the Treaty of Bassein, either by means of his own power, or in conjunction with Raghuji Bhonsla, and Jaswant Rao Holkar; and Colonel Collins further requires that Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia will state, without reserve, whether it be his present wish and intention to maintain and preserve the relations of friendship which have so long subsisted between his Sarkar and the British Government.

Finally, in performance of his duty, Colonel Collins apprizes the Maharaja that should he now refuse, or delay, to give explicit answers to the foregoing questions, and continue with his army south of the Narbada, such refusal, or delay, will be regarded by His Excellency as an avowal of hostile designs on the part of this court against the British Government. Colonel Collins, therefore, hopes that motives of moderation and justice, as well as a proper sense of his own interests, will induce Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to act on the present occasion, conformably with the relations of amity which have so long subsisted between the two states, and which have never been violated on the part of the English, and consistently with the declaration that he (the Maharaja) made to Colonel on the 29th of Zilqad (24th March). But should the Maharaja decline giving Colonel Collins the satisfaction which he now demands in this case, the Colonel requests that Maharaja Daulat Rao will furnish him with a party of horse to escort him as far as Aurangabad together with supplies of grain sufficient for the subsistence of his sepoy and followers until their arrival at that city.



**No. 166**—Having recovered his health, Stuart proposes to rejoin the army.

**FROM**—J. STUART, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

**TO**—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Head Quarters, Bellary, 12th June 1803.*

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 4th instant and I return my thanks for the mark of your attention in forwarding for my perusal your despatch to the right honourable the Governor of Fort St. George.

I regret exceedingly that the late proceedings of the Peshwa have been so unsatisfactory, but I sincerely hope that His Highness will not be induced to persevere in a line of conduct so contrary to his interest: and to his engagements with the British Government, and I trust that General Wellesley's movement to the northward by promoting the settlement of affairs in that quarter, will remove an influence which perhaps produces some effect upon His Highness's mind, or if he continues to disregard his engagements, will enable us to adopt the measures which our own interests may dictate.

**P.S.**—My health is so well re-established, that I propose sailing out tomorrow morning, on my return to camp near Mudgal in the Doab.

**No. 167**—Collins informs Close that even when the Marathi letter from the Peshwa addressed to Sindhia was submitted to him it did not produce any effect.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

**TO**—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT WITH THE PESHWA.

*Camp near Chikhli, 13th June 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, covering a copy of your address to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General under date the 5th of the same month, and to forward a transcript of my despatch to His Excellency (No. 258).

I have, for some days past, been satisfied, in my own mind, that Ba'aji Kunjar is entirely in the interests of this court, and in consequence, have communicated with him under the precautions which you have suggested. It is, however, my duty to inform you, that whatever ground this vakil may have lost at the Poona Durbar, he frequently receives letters from His Highness the Peshwa by means of the dak of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

The copy of the letter, written by His Highness the Peshwa in the Marathi language and addressed to Sindhia, for the purpose of discouraging his advance to Poona, was shown to the Maharaja yesterday morning by my agent Ganpat Rai in the presence of my Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan, and Balaji Kunjar. The Maharaja after perusing the letter, declared that he had never received any address of the kind from His Highness Baji Rao, and repeated this denial on being questioned on the subject by Mirza Bakar Khan. Whether Sindhia was sincere in the foregoing declaration, whether his servants may not have suppressed this letter, or whether the ministers of His Highness the Peshwa may not have neglected to forward it to this Durbar, are questions which I cannot take upon myself to determine, as the characters of the persons in the confidence of Baji Rao are altogether unknown to me.

I cannot but express my regret that you have so little hope of prevailing on the Peshwa to prohibit the advance of Sindhia to Poona, the more so as the Maharaja affects to lay great stress on the invitation which he has received to proceed to that city from Baji Rao, and which therefore ought, in my judgment, to be immediately retracted, if true, or disavowed, if false.

The enclosed address to His Excellency, of yesterday's date, will fully apprise you of the critical situation of affairs at this court. Fortunately the water of the *Sina Nadi* has subsided, of which circumstance I have availed myself, by deputing Mirza Baker Khan to the Raja of Berar, in order to learn how far it may be practicable to induce that Chief to promote the pacific views of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

**No. 168**—Collins reports about the visit of Sindhia to Bhonsla and adds that though Mirza Bakar Khan visited Bhonsla more than once nothing substantial has resulted.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Chikhli, 14th June 1803.*

I do myself the honour to forward a copy and translate of the only written reply which this court has thought proper to return to my memorial of the 12th instant, a transcript of which formed a part of my despatch to Your Excellency of the same date.

I, likewise, enclose, for the information of Your Lordship, a translate of an article of intelligence which I, this morning, received from my agent at Delhi. As this news is important, I shall lose no time in

transmitting the same to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. I have, also, instructed my agent to forward further information he may obtain, to General Lake, through my writer, who resides at Fatehgarh.

Yesterday, the water in the *Sina Nadi* having subsided, I sent Mirza Bakar Khan to the camp of Raghuji Bhonsla, as well to enquire whether that Chief had answered Your Lordship's letter of the 13th ultimo, as to apprise him of the contents of the memorial which I had been obliged to address to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia. I thought it proper, indeed for many considerations, that this Chieftain should know that the Maharaja had declared it rested with the Berar Raja to decide whether there should be peace or war with the English. Raghuji Bhonsla received Mirza Bakar with marked kindness and attention, but excused himself from entering upon business at that time, on the ground of his expecting an immediate visit from Daulat Rao Sindhia. Raghuji therefore requested that the Mirza would wait on him the next day, as he had much to communicate. When my Munshi was returning to our camp, he met the Maharaja who was then on his way to visit the Bhonsla. Sindhia stopped his palaki in order to send a civil message to me by Mirza Bakar Khan.

The Mirza set off from hence at day light this morning in order to repair to the camp of Raghuji Bhonsla, who had expressed a wish to see him very early. It is now past four o'clock in the after-noon, and my Munshi is not yet come back, which I am sorry for, as I entertained a hope of informing Your Excellency of the result of his interview with the Berar Raja by this day's dak. But as I am desirous that the Commander-in-Chief should be apprized as early as possible of the intrigues of the Bundelkhand Sardar I must defer giving Your Lordship an account of Mirza Bakar's conversation with Raghuji Bhonsla until tomorrow. I omitted to mention to Your Excellency that on the 7th instant the Berar Raja sent a very friendly message to me, by his Munshi, intimating a wish that we might soon be personally known to each other.

**No. 169**—Collins forwards to the Governor General the details of Mirza's meeting with Bhonsla, and adds that Sindhia is going to have a secret meeting with Bhonsla on 16th June.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Chikhli, 15th June 1803.*

I have the honour to enclose, for Your Excellency's information a translate of minutes that Mirza Bakar Khan took of the conference which he held with Raja Raghuji Bhonsla yesterday morning.

Tomorrow Daulat Rao Sindhia is to have a secret consultation with the Berar Raja, after which I am to have an audience of the Maharaja for the purpose of being informed of his final determination on the question of peace, or war, with the English.

I have written to Raghujee Bhonsla to inquire whether he has received a letter from Your Excellency under date the 22nd ultimo, and to apprise him that I have a copy, which he may peruse, should the original not have reached him.

**No. 169A—ENCLOSURE.**

*Minutes taken by Mirza Bakar Khan of a conference which he held with Raja Raghujee Bhonsla on the 14th June 1803 addressed to Colonel Collins.*

After complimenting Raja Raghujee Bhonsla in your name, I informed him of the principal points urged by you, on the part of the most noble the Governor General, to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia on the 6th of Safar [May 28th], of your having submitted the Treaty of Bassein to his perusal, and having demanded from him an explicit answer; I also informed the Raja that the Maharaja said it would, on his own part, be a breach of faith were he to give the answer required before he had learned his sentiments. The Raja being now arrived and having had several meetings with Daulat Rao Sindhia, you had, I stated, demanded from the Maharaja the answer he had promised you; and the better to impress him with the real state of things, that you had, at the same time, addressed a memorial to him by which he was, in fine, plainly apprized, that if he then evaded giving the answer required, the most noble the Governor General would consider such evasion as an indication of hostile designs on the part of the Maharaja against the English Government; I added that I had brought with me a copy of that memorial in case the Raja might be desirous to peruse it. Shridhar Pant took the memorial and perused it, and afterwards explained it in the Marathi language to Raghujee Bhonsla. In reply, Raja Raghujee said that only two casual meetings had taken place between him and Daulat Rao Sindhia at either of which no point relating to the present business was discoursed of; that the affair related to a great state, that it was no more than eight days since he first learned, through the medium of the most noble the Governor General's letter, that the treaty above mentioned had been actually concluded, and that he would be enabled to declare his sentiments on this subject after learning particulars from Daulat Rao Sindhia, and after a meeting, not only with Jaswant Rao Holkar but with the Peshwa himself, who had not yet written to him on this head, and to whose situation, as head of the Maratha

Empire, he (Raja Raghuji) had hereditary claims. He continued to say, that Sindhia, Holkar and himself, were united as one, that Holkar was preparing to visit him, that of all the Maratha Sardars he (Raghuji) was the chief, and that he had no intention whatever to exceed the bounds of right. I then told the Raja to ascertain matters from the Peshwa's wakil, Balaji Kunjar, who was here, and who could confirm the articles of the treaty ; and I remarked, that Daulat Rao Sindhia having committed to the wisdom of his (the Raja's) determination the alternative of peace or war, it would redound to his honour were friendship preserved on all sides, but should the contrary take place (which God forbid) that event would in like manner be ascribed to him. To this the Raja answered that he would not give his consent to any measure whatever until he should perfectly understand the state of circumstances, and ascertain what it was which the English required of Daulat Rao Sindhia. He then said, he would not quit his present position before some precise measure should be adopted. I told the Raja what the English demanded of Sindhia was, that he would not obstruct the arrangement of Bassein, and that in proof of his sincerity, he would retreat to the north of the Narbada ; for the Treaty of Bassein, I said, invaded neither the rights of the Maharaja, nor those of any of the principal sardars of the Deccan. I further observed that General Wellesley, according to the wish of the Peshwa, had marched to this quarter at the head of the united forces of the Company and the Peshwa, for the purpose, among others, of chastizing Holkar. That this army was on the frontiers waiting in expectation of an explicit answer from the Maharaja, and that if the answer was withheld the most noble the Governor General would consider it an indication of hostility. The Raja said in reply, " Do not meddle with Holkar, he is united with me ". He also said that if you would not await the result of the conference of Sindhia, Holkar, and himself, it would be considered as an anticipation of hostilities on the part of the English. I answered that you had waited, conformably with the promise of the Maharaja, who had postponed matters to his meeting with the Raja, and that you now desired to leave the camp of the Maharaja agreeably to the orders of the most noble the Governor General, who would consider the evasion of an explicit answer on the part of the Maharaja, as an indication of hostile designs. Raja Raghuji then remarked that the result of the meeting of Sindhia, Holkar, and himself would necessarily take up much time. Here Shridhar Bapu asked, if it would not satisfy you, that no hostilities should commence on either side until after the result of the meeting of the three Chiefs in which case the same satisfaction should be given to those sardars by you. I replied that I would acquaint you with this proposition. He then stated that the consent of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to the advance of the British Troops to Poona, for the purpose of restoring the Peshwa to the *masnad*, was mentioned in the most noble the Governor General's letter, and he added, that the Maharaja plainly refused his consent, through

Jadu Rao, who managed that part of the negotiation. In reply I stated that the Maharaja explicitly declared his consent to the measure in his reply to Colonel Close, that a copy of that reply was in your possession, and would be sent for inspection, if he so desired it ; to which he assented.

In conclusion, I asked, in your name, whether an answer was prepared to the letter of the most noble the Governor General. Raja Raghuji replied that after consulting with Daulat Rao Sindhia he would give a deliberate reply to that letter, and would at the same time send information of it to you.

**No. 170**—Having been definitely informed that no invitations were ever sent by the Peshwa to Sindhia, Collins instructs Ganpat Rai to ask the ministers of Sindhia to produce such invitations received from Poona.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Chikhli, 16th June 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 11th instant.

As soon as I had perused the minutes of your conference with His Highness of the 9th of this month, I sent for my agent Ganpat Rai and explained to him that part of it in which the Peshwa declares that he had never invited either Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia or the Berar Raja to proceed to Poona, since his (the Peshwa's) return to that city. And that although the letters of His Highness the Peshwa contained no direct prohibition of their approach yet that was clearly to be implied from their tenour, particularly of those addressed to Sindhia, which directed the attention of the Maharaja to the punishment of the enemies of the state in another quarter, and pointed out that the desolation of the country near Poona was so great as to oblige him (the Peshwa) to send the English army, with most of his own troops, to the frontier.

I have ordered Ganpat Rai to make a faithful report of the foregoing assertions, on the part of His Highness the Peshwa, to Sindhia and to his ministers, and have, likewise, instructed my agent to suggest to them, that if the Maharaja has actually received letters from the Peshwa written since the return of His Highness to Poona and inviting Sindhia to repair to that capital, it was incumbent on this Durbar to produce those letters. At the same time, I directed Ganpat Rai to explain that His Highness Baji Rao, freely, acknowledged that before he concluded the alliance with the English, he had repeatedly, and urgently, written both to Sindhia,

and to Raghuji Bhonsla, stating his distress and the ruin of the country, and requiring their aid, but positively denied having ever invited them to come to Poona since his return to that capital.

I have offered to send Sindhia's ministers a translate, in the Persian language, of the assertions of His Highness the Peshwa on this important subject, and I shall lose no time in apprizing you of the result of Ganpat Rai's communications to this Durbar on the present occasion.

**No. 171**—Translation of a letter from a news-writer in Holkar's camp.

*Dated 18th June 1803.*

Harnath Singh having crossed the Tapti, proceeding to the village of Copoor (belonging to the Gaikwad, and seven *kos* to the northward of the above river) and levying two lakhs of rupees from the inhabitants, encamped near the place.

Holkar, informed of Harnath's success, crossed the Tapti, and is encamped near Copoor.

Shahamat Khan and Nago Jiwaji are at Talnair, on the southern bank of the Tapti.

Meer Khan is in the vicinity of Jalna, on the banks of the Girna river. Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla have met, and conferred together near Malkapur; and it is reported here that Sindhia will soon return to Burhanpur, and canton there. It is now confidently said here, that Holkar and these two Chieftains are leagued together.

Letters from Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla come frequently to Holkar who tells them, that if they will send Khande Rao Holkar, he will approach and have a meeting with them.

Provisions are extremely dear in Holkar's camp. Grain is procurable only on the days when it comes into camp. On the other days, none can be procured.

Holkar distributes no pay to his horsemen, for this reason, that when they get a little cash, they desert.

*Note.*—The *harkarahs* who brought the above letter, report that when they left Holkar's camp, it was supposed by some that his army would winter at Sautphaur, 10 *kos* distant, in an easterly direction from his present encampment, and on the high road to Burhanpur; others imagined that he would proceed by the Sendhwa Ghat to Maheshwar, on the Nerbada, and then canton.

**No. 172**—Collins points out that Sindhia has neither given explicit answers nor has supplied provisions for his return journey.

*Copy of a letter addressed by Collins to Sindhia, and presented by Ganpat Rai on 19th June 1803.*

On the 21st of Safar (12th June) Colonel Collins addressed a memorial to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to the following purport, (here the substance of that memorial is recapitulated); and the Maharaja having declined giving an immediate answer to the questions therein stated, Colonel Collins requested by note, that Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia would direct his servants to supply him with grain, as soon as possible, it being the Colonel's intention to proceed to Aurangabad without delay. The Maharaja wrote in reply to this note, that he had been prevented, by the rain, from paying a second visit to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, but that whenever the weather cleared up, the Maharaja would repair to the camp of the Berar Raja accompanied by Balaji Kunjar, and Narain Rao Vaidya, and that after consulting together, Colonel Collins should be apprized of whatever might be determined on. On the 25th of Safar (16th June) Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia waited on Raja Raghuji Bhonsla with whom he held a secret consultation, at which Balaji Kunjar and Narain Rao Vaidya were present—nevertheless, the Maharaja has not, to this moment, given Colonel Collins any answer to the important questions stated in his memorial of the 21st Safar (12th June). Neither have the servants of the Maharaja provided any grain for the subsistence of the Company's sepoys, on their march to Aurangabad, although he (the Colonel) has made several applications to this court in order to obtain those necessary supplies. Colonel Collins, therefore, once more begs leave to call the attention of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to this subject and at the same time considers it as an indispensable duty to inform the Maharaja that he shall proceed from hence towards Aurangabad on the 2nd of Rabj-ul-awwal (22nd June) even should this Dourbar persist in with-holding the supplies of grain for which the Colonel has so repeatedly requested.

**No. 173**—Close is asked to represent to the Peshwa the impropriety of Balaji Kunjar's conduct and to press for his immediate recall.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVT.,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 20th June 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch to my address of the 1st instant.



His Excellency observes that in your letter to the honourable the Governor of Bombay, dated the 31st ultimo, of which a copy was enclosed in that dispatch, you have stated that Balaji Kunjar, the person dispatched by His Highness the Peshwa to Daulat Rao Sindhia, for the purpose of communicating to that Chieftain the engagement concluded between His Highness and the British Government, has adopted a style of language in his late communications with Sindhia's Durbar\* entirely opposite to that which he is represented by Colonel Collins to have held at his first conferences with that Chieftain, and to be acting upon principles utterly inconsistent with the avowed objects of his mission. This is the only information which has been conveyed to His Excellency of a change of conduct on the part of Balaji Kunjar. You have not stated the authority on which that information is founded; but if you should have reason to be satisfied of its authenticity, His Excellency deems it highly proper that a representation should be made immediately to his Highness the Peshwa upon the subject. His Highness cannot, consistently with the obligation of his engagements, countenance a conduct on the part of his emissary incompatible with the declared objects of his mission, and adverse to the interests of the alliance. His Excellency is, therefore, of opinion that the Peshwa should be required to recall Balaji Kunjar on the express ground of his having acted in a manner contrary to the instructions with which he was furnished, and injurious to the interests of his employer; and His Excellency accordingly directs, with the reservation above stated, that you will represent to His Highness, in the strongest terms, the impropriety of Balaji Kunjar's conduct, and urge his immediate recall from the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 174**—Sindhia asks Collins to meet Raghuji Bhonsla on Tuesday, the 21st June 1804

*Translate of Daulat Rao Sindhia's reply to the Memorial of Colonel John Collins under date the 20th of June, 1803 (29th Safar, A. H. 1218).*

Your memorial delivered through Ganpat Rai is received and its contents understood. It was mentioned to you in a former private interview between us, that whenever a meeting should take place between Raja Raghuji Bhonsla and me, and that I should have obtained his advice, such an answer should be returned to your questions as should appear to be proper. Raja Raghuji and I have accordingly met and have two or three times conferred together in private, of which the result is that you should on Tuesday visit Raja Raghuji Bhonsla. This you will have learned from your Munshi who waited on the Raja. It will, therefore, be right for you to visit this Chief. Whenever afterwards the Raja and I shall have met and consulted together, you shall then be sent for and the answer communicated to you. The affair is important, and haste on the occasion is improper; you are besides wise, circumspect and reflecting, and have a thorough knowledge on the subject.

**No. 175**—Collins points out to Sindhia that Bhonsla has declined to meet him, while the proposed interview between Sindhia and Bhonsla has been deferred to an unknown date.

*Memorial addressed by Collins to Sindhia, and presented by Mirza Bakar Khan on 21st June 1803.*

Colonel Collins has received the reply of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to his memorial of the 28th of Safar (19th June) wherein the Maharaja apprizes the Colonel (here recapitulate the substance of Daulat Rao Sindhia's reply of the 29th of Safar). Colonel Collins begs leave to observe that on the 26th of Safar (17th June) he received a verbal communication, through Ganpat Rai, intimating a wish, on the part of the Maharaja that the Colonel should pay a visit to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, also an assurance that after this visit had been paid, Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Berar Raja would have a private conference at which Colonel Collins should be present, and that then the Colonel should know their final determination. In consequence of this intimation and assurance, Colonel Collins, ever desirous of complying with the wishes of the Maharaja, sent his Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan on the 27th of Safar (18th June) to the camp of Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, for the purpose, of apprizing him that the Colonel intended to wait on him the next day agreeable, in order to confer on matters of importance. Raja Raghuji told Mirza Bakar Khan that he could not receive Colonel Collins on the next day, until the 1st of Rabi-ul-awal (21st June), and the Raja further said that at this visit he should not enter upon any business with the Colonel. It appears from this answer that the Berar Raja is by no means solicitous to converse with Colonel Collins; nevertheless Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia has repeated his wish that the Colonel should visit this Chief, and has promised, in this case, that whenever Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, and the Maharaja should meet and confer together, the Colonel should be sent for, and an answer given to Colonel Collins. [He] cannot but remark that no period whatever is fixed by the Maharaja for this meeting and as the required answer has already been postponed far beyond the promised time, the Colonel knows not whether the proposed interview between the Maharaja and the Berar Raja may not also be deferred for a month or more. Colonel Collins, therefore, earnestly conjures Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to reflect with his usual candour and wisdom, how derogatory it would be to the dignity of the British Government, were the Colonel to delay his departure hence many days longer, since the Maharaja has as repeatedly evaded to declare whether it was the intention of this Court to be at peace or war with the English. However,

Colonel Collins who entertains a most sincere esteem and warm regard for Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, will in compliment to his friend consent to delay his departure if the Maharaja will only have the goodness to promise a decisive answer to the questions which the Colonel stated in his memorial of the 21st of Safar (12 June) sometime within the next six days. In the meanwhile should it be the wish of the Maharaja, Colonel Collins will with, pleasure, pay a complimentary visit to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla. Colonel Collins is well aware that under existing circumstances he hazards incurring the displeasure of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General by thus protracting his stay at this Durbar, but heavy as the displeasure of His Excellency would prove to him, yet he will venture to take on himself the responsibility of the measure, provided the Maharaja will afford him any grounds for hope that his present compliance may be the means of preventing a serious disagreement between two States long connected by the ties of amity and friendship.

**No. 176**—Through his vakit, Bhonsla is warned by the British Government that he has no right to mediate in the dispute between two subordinates of the Peshwa which is a matter closely connected with the Peshwa's Government. It is further pointed out that the British Government looked upon his late conduct with distrust and would open hostilities should the confederates attempt to subvert the Treaty of Bassein.

*Minutes of a conference between Buggaji Pandit, Vakil of the Raja of Berar, and the Persian Secretary to the Government of India, held at Fort William, on 21st June 1803.*

The Persian Secretary having adverted to the reference contained in the Raja of Berar's letter to the Governor General received on 17th June, to the verbal representations of Buggaji Pandit, desired him to state the points which he was directed to communicate.

Buggaji Pandit, accordingly stated as follows :—

That the Raja's ministers Shridhar Pandit and Krishna Rao formerly proceeded to Poona ; that during their continuance there Jaswant Rao Holkar arrived at that city ; that Holkar communicated with those ministers on the subject of the difference subsisting between Sindhia and him, and desired them to solicit the mediation of the Raja for the adjustment of those differences ; that the ministers concluded engagements for that purpose with Holkar and then quitted Poona ; on

their return to Nagpur, and on their arrival, communicated to the Raja all that had passed between them and Holkar; that about that time Sindhia arrived at Burhanpur, whence he dispatched his confidential agent Jadu Rao Bhaskar to the Raja; that Jadu Rao Bhaskar conveyed on the part of Sindhia a solicitation similar to that of Holkar for the Raja's mediation for the settlement of their mutual differences. That the Raja considering it to be incumbent on him to interpose for the adjustment of those differences, entered his tents with the intention of proceeding to meet both those Chiefs, and to effect an accommodation between them. And that the Raja had addressed a letter on this subject to His Excellency the Governor General, for His Excellency's information, agreeably to the established habits of cordiality and friendship.

The Persian Secretary then asked Buggaji Pandit upon what principle the Raja had assumed the character of mediator between those Chieftains.

Buggaji Pandit answered that it was an affair of a domestic nature, and therefore the Raja entertained the design of effecting an accommodation between them.

The Persian Secretary observed in reply that it could not be considered in that light. That Sindhia and Holkar were both servants of the Peshwa (which Buggaji admitted), that Holkar had proceeded with a large army to Poona, expelled the Peshwa from his capital, and endeavoured to establish his own authority by effecting a complete revolution in the state. That by these acts Holkar had placed himself in the condition of a rebel towards the Peshwa; upon what principle therefore could the Raja of Berar found a right to mediate an accommodation between Sindhia and Holkar upon any terms without the Peshwa's previous consent. (Note—Buggaji Pandit admitted that the Peshwa's consent had not been obtained). That Colonel Close by direction of the Governor General, had offered to mediate between the Peshwa and Holkar, but that the Peshwa had replied that he would enter into no negotiation with a rebel. That this manifested the light in which the Peshwa considered Holkar; and showed that the Peshwa considered him to be deserving of punishment. Upon what principle, therefore, could the Raja supersede the Peshwa's authority by mediating differences between Holkar and Sindhia, both servants of the Peshwa, and take upon himself to settle terms in favor of Holkar, when the Peshwa refused to grant him any? That independently of these considerations, no state possessed a right, unsolicited, to interfere for the adjustment of disputes between the servants of another state. That the conclusion to be drawn from these observations was that the Raja possessed no right to interpose his mediation at all. That His Excellency the Governor General, however, was disposed to waive this point, and had no objection to the mediation of the Raja for the accommodation of difference between Sindhia and Holkar, provided, first, that whatever engagements might result from that mediation, those

engagements should not be of a nature injurious to the interests of the British Government, the Peshwa, or any of the allies of the British Government. Secondly, that the detail of those engagements should be fully and truly communicated to the British Government and the Peshwa.

The Persian Secretary took occasion to observe that the interests of the Peshwa and the British Government being completely identified by the late alliance, the British Government had a right to make these requisitions, on the part of the Peshwa.

The Persian Secretary then proceeded to observe that the British Government had a right to demand the full communication of the engagements which might result from the Raja of Berar's mediation, on two grounds. First, on the grounds stated at the commencement of the conversation, namely, that the Peshwa (and consequently the British Government) had unquestionably a right to be informed of the engagements concluded by the mediation of another Chieftain, between two of his servants, one of them too, in a state of rebellion against him. Secondly, that reports had for some time past prevailed to a degree that entitled them to some credit, that the design of a meeting between the three Chieftains was to concert the means of subverting the alliance concluded between the Peshwa and the British Government. That, therefore, the Raja's avowal of his intention to proceed for the express purpose of meeting Sindhia and Holkar, furnished reasonable grounds for doubting his intentions and those of the other two Chieftains, and that under such circumstances, the British Government and the Peshwa had unquestionably a right to demand an explanation.

In this place Buggaji observed that it was true such reports did exist with respect to the intentions of Daulat Rao Sindhia and Holkar. That with regard to Holkar, he plundered indiscriminately, as was manifested by his late exactions from Aurangabad. But that the Raja of Berar's intentions towards the British Government and its allies were extremely amicable, and that he had no such design in proceeding to meet Sindhia and Holkar, as was reported. Buggaji added that the Raja would certainly communicate to the British Government the result of his mediation and referred to the expression of that intention, contained in the Raja's letter to the Governor General.

These observations afforded occasion to remark on the inconsistency and injustice of Sindhia's conduct, if he really entertained designs of the nature ascribed to him by reports ; by observing that the measures adopted by the British Government for the Peshwa's restoration had been undertaken at the solicitation not only of the Peshwa, but of Sindhia himself. That Sindhia's army had been defeated by Holkar, and that Sindhia was unable to effect the Peshwa's restoration. That the British troops had succeeded in compelling Holkar to retire from Poona, and in

restoring the Peshwa to the full exercise of his authority. What then must be thought of the conduct of Sindhia in endeavouring to subvert an arrangement, formed under such circumstances?

Buggaji appeared surprised at the information that Sindhia had solicited the cooperation of the British Government. The Persian Secretary informed him that the British Government was in possession of Sindhia's letter to that effect.

The Persian Secretary observed that the British Government possessed a right to demand an explanation of the engagements which the Raja's mediation might produce, as the ally of the Nizam also, on account of Holkar's plunder of Aurangabad. Was it the Raja's intention in adjusting terms of accommodation with Holkar, to secure reparation for that plunder? to which Buggaji observed that the Raja would certainly be disposed to do so.

Buggaji made no other remarks on what was stated to him than that he fully admitted the right of the British Government to expect a full explanation of any engagements which might result from the Raja's mediation for the reasons which had been detailed, the justice of which reasons he candidly acknowledged at the moment when they were stated.

(Note.—Buggaji in his report states his answer to be, that it was the Raja's object to compose and accommodate differences, and that he had no concern with points of this nature. I may have misunderstood him, but the impression of the answer stated in the body of this report is strong on my mind.)

In the course of the conference the Persian Secretary took occasion to advert to that part of Buggaji's communication which states that the Raja's ministers concluded engagements with Holkar, pledging the Raja's mediation and observed that such an intercourse as he had described between the Raja and a person in actual rebellion against the Peshwa, appeared to be unauthorized and unjustifiable. To which Buggaji made no reply.

The Persian Secretary further apprized Buggaji that without awaiting the communication of the Raja with respect to the engagements produced by his mediation, if His Excellency should receive authentic information that those engagements were of a nature injurious to the rights and interests of the British Government, of the Peshwa, or of any of the allies of the British Government, His Excellency would immediately authorize the commencement of hostilities against the Raja's possessions.

The Persian Secretary added that it was the anxious wish of His Excellency to maintain the relations of peace and friendship which had so long subsisted between the two states, and that it rested entirely with the Raja to preserve those relations, or to place himself in the condition of an enemy.

Buggaji answered that it was equally the wish of the Rāja to preserve friendship with the British Government ; to which the Persian Secretary observed that his actions then ought to correspond with his professions.

The Persian Secretary took occasion to state to Buggaji in the course of conversation, that the Treaty of Bassein offered no injury to the rights and independance of the Marathā Chieftains, but on the contrary tended to secure them. And he apprized Buggaji that a copy of that treaty had been transmitted to the Raja, to whom His Excellency had also addressed a letter explaining his views and intentions, in the fullest manner.

The Persian Secretary informed Buggaji that he was directed by His Excellency to state the foregoing observations and to desire that he would communicate the whole to the Raja. The Persian Secretary also informed Buggaji that His Excellency would reply to the Raja's letter, referring for particulars to Buggaji's communications.

Finally, the Persian Secretary intimated to Buggaji that His Excellency was well informed of the language which he had been accustomed to hold at his own house, and the correspondence which he had been maintaining ; and recommended to him particular caution in his conduct.

Buggaji of course denied that he had held any language or correspondence of an improper nature, but did not seem very firm in his denial when this Persian Secretary reiterated the declaration of the knowledge which His Excellency possessed with regard to his conduct the consequences of which were stated to him in strong terms.

The Persian Secretary asked Buggaji if he had fully understood every thing which had been stated to him and offered to recapitulate the whole. Buggaji assured the Persian Secretary that he had fully understood every word and that he should faithfully communicate the whole to the Raja.

Buggaji stated that he had not yet received information of the Raja's actual march from Nagpur.

**No. 177**—Under instructions from the Governor General, Edmonstone asks Collins to remonstrate with Sindhia for sending a detachment under Dharam Rao to the north-western frontier of the Company's territories, and to call upon him to afford satisfactory explanation of its objects or to make due amends for the same.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 21st June 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to transmit to you the inclosed copy of a private dispatch, to my address from Mr. Ahmuty, the Collector of Allahabad, communicating the intelligence of the receipt of letters from Daulāt Rao Sindhia by Raja Himmat Bahaduar and Ghani Bahadur, in which Sindhia distinctly avows the formation of a confederacy between him, the Raja of Berar

and Jaswant Rao Holkar for purposes hostile to the British Government, and directs Himmat Bahadur and Ghani Bahadur to be prepared to co-operate with the confederated armies in offensive measures against the British possessions, and stating the approach of a considerable body of Pindaris, under the command of Dharam Rao Pandit, dispatched by Sindhia for the express purpose of ravaging the Company's territories.

This intelligence corresponds in a great degree with the information contained in your dispatches of the 9th of April and 2nd May.

Your dispatch of the 9th of April states that Ambaji Ingle had written to the Chiefs of Bundelkhand, notifying the intended confederacy of Sindhia, the Raja of Berar, and Holkar, and expressing an expectation that the Chiefs of Bundelkhand will have been induced to adopt measures of defence against the alleged ambitious projects of the British Government ; the same dispatch contains information of Sindhia's having actually detached 8,000 Pindari cavalry, under the command of Dharam Rao, towards Kalpi, and your letter of the 2nd May communicates the intelligence of the intended march of a further body of 10,000 Pindaris in the same direction.

His Excellency gives credit to the intelligence transmitted by the Collector of Allahabad, to the extent in which it corresponds with the information communicated in your dispatches ; but His Excellency having received from Raja Himmat Bahadur repeated offers of transferring to the authority of the Company the province of Bundelkhand, in terms expressive of great anxiety on the part of that Chieftain for the acceptance of those offers, His Excellency considers it to be probable, that the information communicated by Himmat Bahadur may be exaggerated, with a view to induce the British Government to accede to his proposals ; advertng also to the hostile disposition manifested by Ambaji towards the British interests, and to the ascendancy which Ambaji possesses in the government of Daulat Rao Sindhia, the alleged communication to the Chiefs of Bundelkhand may have been transmitted by Ambaji without the knowledge or concurrence of Daulat Rao Sindhia, but Sindhia may justly be held responsible for acts done in his name by his subordinate officers, of a nature to affect the rights and interests of other states. The measure, however, of dispatching a considerable body of forces from Sindhia's camp to the north-western frontier of the Company's territories, must have been adopted with Sindhia's knowledge, if not by his express direction ; and that measure tends to support the credit of Himmat Bahadur's communication in its fullest extent.

For these reasons, His Excellency is of opinion that the information communicated by Himmat Bahadur forms a just foundation for a serious remonstrance to Daulat Rao Sindhia on the part of the British Government, unless you should be in possession of facts sufficient to invalidate the truth of it ; and at all events His Excellency deems it proper that Sindhia



should be required to afford a satisfactory explanation of the objects of detaching a body of his forces to the Company's frontier.

If you should have reason to believe that either Sindhia or Ambaji has actually transmitted directions to the Chiefs of Bundelkhand to prepare for offensive measures against the British possessions, and that Dharam Rao has been directed to employ the detachment under his command in predatory operations within the Company's territories, His Excellency directs that you will represent to Sindhia in the strongest terms, the injustice, treachery, and insult of this proceeding. You will state to Sindhia that this proceeding is entirely unwarranted and contrary to every principle of good faith and public honour. That the measures of the British Government, from which a pretext is assumed to colour that proceeding, were not only just and honourable in every view, but manifestly necessary for the preservation of Sindhia's power; that those measures had been originally solicited by Sindhia himself, and had subsequently obtained Sindhia's express concurrence and applause, accompanied by a declaration of his disposition to maintain the relations of friendship and harmony with the British Government, and of his resolution to abstain from any opposition to the accomplishment of the immediate object of those measures. That under these circumstances the hostility of Sindhia's conduct on this occasion is aggravated by the most infamous and profligate deceit and falsehood; and that the imputation of designs on the part of the British Government, repugnant to every principle of good faith and public honour, is an insult to the British name. It may be further proper to add that the transmission of orders to the chiefs of Bundelkhand, who are exclusively the subjects of His Highness the Peshwa, is an assumption of authority utterly unwarranted by the relation in which Sindhia stands to His Highness.

Unless Sindhia should positively disavow the transmission of such orders, and afford a satisfactory explanation of the objects of the detachment under the command of Dharam Rao, you will require him, in the name of the Governor General, to countermand those orders in your presence and in public Durbar, and to issue instructions to Dharam Rao to refrain from any violation of the Company's territory. You will further require that these counter-orders and instructions be submitted to your deliberate examination; and you will apprise Sindhia that his refusal to comply with these just requisitions will place him in the condition of a public enemy to the British Government to commence immediate hostilities against him. If Sindhia should disavow the orders, you will demand the immediate punishment of the person who presumed to issue them, and you will publicly signify to that person the severe displeasure of the British Government, and the determination of the Governor General to make a signal example of the chief or person who has committed this act of unpardonable presumption and unprovoked outrage.

His Excellency has deemed it proper to signify to Himmatt Bahadur and to Ghani Bahadur, that they will be held responsible for the adoption of any measures of hostility against the British possessions in compliance with the orders of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 178**—Sindhia points out to Collins that the delay in his reply is due to the magnitude of the affair and that any haste is improper.

*Translate of a letter from Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to Colonel John Collins. Dated 22nd June 1803.*

I have been favoured with your letter in acknowledgment of the receipt of mine and in reply to what I had formerly written to you, and I perfectly understood its contents.

With regard to what you write respecting your desire of an answer in six days to your representations the case is this : during these six days you do visit Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, in the same interval of time I also will wait on him, and immediately afterwards whatever is to be declared will be communicated to you. In delivering my reply the delay that has occurred is in consequence of the magnitude of the affair. You, by the bounty of God are sensible, wise and a well-wisher to both States ; let not, therefore, the delay of a day or two appear to you of any material moment. Haste is improper in matters of such importance as this is.

**No. 179**—In this important letter Collins acquaints the Governor General with his fruitless efforts to obtain an interview with Bhonsla. He encloses copies of the correspondence with Sindhia and points out that the Maratha Princes are trying to postpone any decisive answer till after the arrival of Jaswant Rao Holkar, whom they are calling there.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Chikhli, 22nd June 1803.*

Since I had the honour to address Your Excellency on the 15th instant, my time has been much engaged by serious altercations with this Durbar,

the particulars of which Your Lordship will best understand from the contents of the enclosures Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.

I confess when I received the message of the Maharaja, on the 17th of this month, noticed in enclosure No. 3, I entertained some hope that the confederate Chieftains were disposed to act conformably with Your Lordship's wishes. For although it was apparent from the language which Raghujee Bhonsla held in his conference with Mirza Bakar Khan, on the 14th instant, that this Chief was greatly inflated with the idea of being the head of a powerful confederacy, yet I thought it almost certain that Your Excellency's representations, under date the 13th of May, could not fail of making a proper impression on the mind of the Bhonsla, after due reflection, as he is generally deemed to be a person of great prudence. I, therefore, most readily acquiesced in Sindhia's proposal, it having been previously my intention to endeavour to obtain a private conference with Raghujee Bhonsla.

But when Mirza Bakar waited on the Berar Raja on the 18th instant in order to fix a day for my repairing to his camp, the Mirza soon perceived as well by the manner, as by the discourse of the Chieftain, that he was by no means desirous of seeing me, since exclusively of his fixing a distant day for my visit, and of his refusal to converse with me on business, the Bhonsla was very particular regarding the ceremonial that should be observed on this occasion, and which he settled in such a manner as he conceived likely to be displeasing to me. But in this he was altogether mistaken, for had he consented to enter upon business I should have cheerfully complied with the conditions which he had proposed.

At this audience Mirza Bakar Khan presented to the Raja of Berar a copy of Your Excellency's letter to his address, under date the 22nd ultimo, the original not having reached him. When the contents of that letter had been explained to Raghujee Bhonsla, he said that in his march to Malkapur he had never quitted his own territory, that he entertained no hostile designs against His Highness the Nawab Nizam, that, on the contrary, the retreat of Jaswant Rao Holkar from the frontier of His Highness was, principally, owing to his (Raghujee's) instances. These were the only observations which the Berar Raja made on Your Lordship's letter, and as he seemed disinclined to prolong the conversation, Mirza Baker took his leave having previously explained that I had no authority to suspend hostilities on the part of the British troops.

From the tenour of the foregoing conversation, I naturally, concluded that Sindhia's sole view in requesting I would visit Raghujee Bhonsla, was to postpone giving any decisive answer to the questions stated in my memorial of the 12th instant until the junction of Jaswant

Rao Holkar ; and under this idea I addressed another representation to Sindhia of which the enclosure No. 1 is a copy. I received a written reply (No. 2) to this representation, and at the same time verbal assurance from the ministers of the Maharaja that I should certainly be informed of the final determination of Sindhia and of Raghuji Bhonsla in the course of six or seven days. I immediately desired that this assurance should be given in writing under the seal of the Maharaja, but which his ministers peremptorily refused.

Reflecting that, in consequence of the evasive reply of Daulat Rao Sindhia to my first memorial, both the Commander-in-Chief and the hon'ble Major-General Arthur Wellesley would instantly prepare for hostilities against this government, I conceived that my delaying my departure hence, for a few days, could not materially retard the execution of any measures which Your Excellency might adopt for the purpose of bringing this court to a due sense of its improper conduct : while on the other hand the greater my forbearance was on the present occasion, the more unjustifiable would the proceedings of this Durbar appear, in the event of war. Influenced by these considerations I again wrote to Daulat Rao Sindhia, and the enclosure No. 3 contains copies in English and Persian of my letter to him. The enclosure No. 4 is a transcript of his reply.

The latest advices from the camp of Jaswant Rao Holkar mention that he is on his march towards the province of Gujrat. How far this intelligence may be relied on, I shall not pretend to determine, but it is at least certain that both Raghuji Bhonsla, and Daulat Rao Sindhia have written to Holkar, earnestly requesting him to repair hither without delay.

If His Highness the Peshwa could be prevailed on to pardon the past offences of Jaswant Rao Holkar conformably to the advice of Your Excellency, and if, at the same time, His Highness could be induced to promise that Chieftain to guarantee the late engagements entered in between Sindhia, the Bhonsla, Jaswant Rao, and his elder brother Kashi Rao for partition of the territorial possessions the Holkar family, I am strongly inclined to believe that such unequivocal proof of the clemency and liberality of His Highness the Peshwa, would be the means of detaching Jaswant Rao Holkar from the interests of the present confederacy.

Nor could the Berar Raja or Daulat Rao Sindhia be justly displeased with the Peshwa for pardoning the transgressions of a Chieftain with whom they are, at this moment, so intimately connected, neither could they complain of His Highness for becoming guarantee to engagements which they themselves had voluntarily contracted with Jaswant Rao Holkar, while the latter Chieftain who has little of any reliance on the good faith of this Durbar, would no doubt be happy to avail himself of the only certain means of securing the permanency of those advantages which he has obtained by his second reconciliation with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

**No. 180**—Collins reports to the Governor General the details of his meeting with Bhonsla in which the Raja avoided discussing politics.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Chikhli, 26th June 1803.*

Yesterday morning I waited on Raja Raghuji Bhonsla according to his appointment, and was received with much politeness. During the visit the Raja behaved with great attention and affability, as well to the gentlemen who accompanied me on this occasion, as to myself.

Although the Berar Raja had made it a stipulation that I should not enter upon business with him at this visit, yet, to my surprise, he asked me, whether I had perused Your Excellency's letter to his address of the 22nd ultimo, and on my replying in the affirmative, the Raja observed that it appeared to him Your Lordship had misunderstood the purport of what he had written to Azim-ul-Umra. Conceiving that this remark afforded me a fair opportunity of drawing from Raghuji Bhonsla a disclosure of his intentions, I said, Your Excellency, who had confidently relied on his friendly disposition towards the British Government, was both surprized and disappointed to learn from his letter to Azim-ul-umra, that . . . . . his (the Bhonsla's) design to proceed [to meet] Daulat Rao Sindhia's for the express purpose of forming a confederacy with that Chieftain and Jaswant Rao Holkar, directed to the [sub-]version of the arrangements concluded [between] His Highness the Peshwa, and the British Government for the restoration of His Highness to the *masnad* of Poona. I then . . [ob-]served that if what the Raja had [said] on this subject to Azim-ul-umra, [had] been misunderstood, the mistake might be easily rectified, by his (the Bhonsla) assuring Your Lordship that he had [no] intention to oppose the completion of the engagements contracted at Bassein between the British Government and His Highness the Peshwa. I added, that when doubts arose between friends, on matters of importance, they ought, in prudence, to be speedily explained and removed and therefore, I trusted that the Raja would give Your Excellency this satisfactory assurance without delay. I concluded my discourse by remarking on the acknowledged wisdom of his character and inferring from it that the present apparent differences would soon be happily adjusted.

Raja Raghuji seemed pleased with the compliment I had paid him, but told me, smilingly, that he could not then converse on business; however, that I might depend on having an answer at the expiration of six days conformably to my own request. I replied that I had no other intention in this visit than merely to pay my personal respects to him,

and that my having spoken at all on business must be ascribed to the question which he (the Raja) had referred to me; this answer gave satisfaction as well to Raghujī, as to his confidential minister Shridhar Pant.

Before I took my leave [of] the Berar Raja, he apprized me that he should move six *kos* from Malkapur, the 27th instant, on account of the great scarcity of forage in the vicinity of his present encampment. He further observed that the ground which he had now selected would be convenient both for Sindhia, and [him, and] consequently that our tents need not be far distant from each other. Daulat Rao Sindhia has actually moved three *kos* nearer to Malkapur, and I shall immediately follow him. I cannot, however, but entertain some apprehension that these movements are preparatory to more procrastinations, on the part of these Chieftains with respect to their promised determination.

**No. 181**—Considering unity of general direction and control of political and military affairs in Hindustan and the Deccan under a distinct local authority subject to the Governor General-in-Council most essential, the Governor General vests General A. Wellesley with the same, and in this important despatch the Governor General clearly explains the true nature and extent of those powers.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—MAJ.-GEN. A. WELLESLEY.

*Fort William, 26th June 1803.*

The present state of affairs in the Maratha Empire, and the security of the alliance lately concluded between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government require that a temporary authority should be constituted at the least possible distance from the scene of eventual negotiation or hostilities, with full powers to conclude upon the spot, whatever arrangements may become necessary either for the final settlement of peace, or for the active prosecution of war. In such a crisis, various questions may arise of which the precise tendency can not be foreseen, and which may demand a prompt decision. The issue of these questions may involve the result of war or peace, and in either alternative the delay of reference to my authority might endanger the seasonable despatch and the ultimate prosperity of the public service.

The success of the military operations now placed under your directions may depend on the timely decisions of various political questions which may occur with relation to the interests and views of the several Maratha Chiefs and Jagirdars, and of their Highnesses the Peshwa and the

Nizam ; on the other hand, the issue of every political arrangement now under negotiation with the powers of Hindustan, or the Deccan, must inseparably be blended with the movements of your army.

It is, therefore, necessary during the present crisis to unite the general direction and control of political and military affairs in Hindustan and the Deccan under a distinct local authority, subject to the Governor General-in-Council. These powers could not be placed with advantage in any other hands than those of the General Officer commanding the troops destined to restore the tranquillity of the Deccan.

Your approved ability, zeal, temper, activity, judgment, combined with your extensive local experience, your established influence, and high reputation among the Maratha chiefs and states, and your intimate knowledge of my views and sentiments concerning the British interests in the Maratha Empire, have determined me to vest these important and arduous powers in your hands.

The nature of your military command under the orders of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Stuart is not likely to admit any doubt, or to lead to any embarrassment. In order, however, to obviate all possible difficulty on this point, I hereby appoint you to the chief command of all the British troops, and of the forces of our allies serving in the territories of the Peshwa, of the Nizam, or of any of the Maratha states or chiefs, subject only to the orders of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Stuart, or of His Excellency General Lake.

I further empower and direct you to assume and exercise the general direction and control of all the political and military affairs of the British Government in the territories of the Nizam, of the Peshwa, and of the Maratha states and chiefs.

The instructions addressed to the Resident at Poona convey to you full authority to carry into complete effect all the measures therein provisionally prescribed, as far as the accomplishment of those measures may depend upon your proceedings, without reference to my authority.

I hereby confirm that authority, and I further vest you with full powers to decide any question which may arise in the prosecution of the measures prescribed by these orders, according to the general spirit of my views and intentions concerning the affairs of the Maratha State, directing you, however, to refer to me in all cases in which a previous reference to my authority may not appear to hazard the public interests. Under the same reservation, I authorize and empower you to commence and conclude negotiations with any of the Maratha Chiefs and Jagirdars on the part of the British Government, for the purpose of promoting the general objects of the alliance lately concluded with His Highness the Peshwa, or of that subsisting with His Highness the Nizam.

This general authority especially empowers you either directly or through the representatives or officers of the British Government to negotiate and conclude any engagements with Daulat Rao Sindhia, with the Raja of Berar or with Jaswant Rao Holkar, which may induce those Chieftains to retire with their forces within the limits of their respective dominions or to afford any other satisfactory pledge of their respective pacific intentions towards the British Government and its allies. You will be careful to form any such engagements on principles conformable to the dignity, honour and interests of the British Government and of its allies, and to the spirit and tenor of our subsisting treaties. You are also authorized under this instruction to arbitrate on the part of the British Government the terms of any convention between His Highness the Peshwa and those Chieftains respectively for the settlement of mutual differences or demands, or for the adjustment of relative pretensions and to pledge the guarantee of the British Government for the observance of those terms by the contracting parties. You are also empowered to arbitrate and guarantee the terms of accommodation between Sindhia and Holkar if any points should yet remain unadjusted between those Chieftains and to frame, negotiate and guarantee any terms between those Chieftains jointly or separately and the Rajah of Berar. It is my particular intention by these instructions to enable you to conclude such arrangements with any of those Chieftains either separately or combined, as may preclude or frustrate any confederacy, or other measures directed to the subversion of the Treaty of Bassein, or to the injury of our rights and interests or those of our allies.

You are also empowered to conclude such engagement with any subordinate chieftains of the Maratha State as may appear to you to be expedient for the purpose of securing their co-operation in the event of hostilities between the British Government and Sindhia, the Raja of Berar, Jaswant Rao Holkar or any other power. You are authorized further to adopt the necessary measures for conciliating the obedience of the subordinate chiefs to the Peshwa's authority.

In the actual relation of the British Government to the Peshwa, we possess the right of securing to the Chiefs and Jagirdars of the Maratha Empire the satisfaction of their just and equitable claims even independently of any direct act of the Peshwa's Government. The exercise of that right becomes a duty in proportion to the danger with which the tardy, infirm or erroneous proceedings of the Peshwa's Government may menace the security of the alliance and the stability of His Highness's legitimate authority.

The policy of the treaty and my inclination would induce me to limit our interference in the internal affairs of the Peshwa's Government within the most moderate bounds. I am determined however to pursue



that course which shall lead most directly and speedily to the full restoration and establishment of His Highness's authority on a permanent basis and to the efficient operation of the benefits of the alliance. If the imbecility of His Highness's councils, the defects of his personal character or the intrigues of his servants should tend to frustrate or to retard the accomplishment of those salutary objects, the provisional interference of the British power must be reasonably and firmly applied to rescue His Highness from the immediate effect of evils which cannot be suffered to operate for a moment, without the hazard of every interest which the Treaty of Bassein was destined to restore and to confirm.

You will therefore proceed without delay to conclude all such arrangements with His Highness's jagirdars and servants of all descriptions as may appear to you to be necessary to enable you to meet the emergencies of the present crisis, and you will not abstain from the most direct and even ostensible interposition of the British authority which may in your judgment be requisite to secure the exertions, to animate the zeal or to reward the services of the Peshwa's subjects and servants in the common cause of His Highness and of his allies. Whatever immediate expense may be necessary for this purpose will be defrayed at present by the British Government, and will hereafter become a charge against the Peshwa, as being inseparably connected with His Highness's restoration and establishment.

All such engagements as you may conclude with His Highness the Peshwa and with any of the Mathraa Chiefs and Jagirdars or other powers, will be confirmed by me under the limitations and restrictions herein prescribed.

Copies of these instructions will be transmitted to the governments of Fort St. George and Bombay and to the Residents at the Courts of Poona, Hyderabad, at the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia and in the territories of the Gaikwad, with directions to those several authorities to assist you and to co-operate with you in all points connected with the efficient exercise of the powers with which you are hereby invested.

In exercising the powers hereby entrusted to your sole direction I direct you to hold the most unreserved and confidential intercourse with the Residents at Poona, at Hyderabad and at the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and also with the Resident in the territory of the Gaikwad, and you will regularly correspond with Lord Clive and with Mr. Duncan.

You will necessarily continue to receive the orders of His Excellency Lt.- General Stuart and to submit a full view of all your operations to the direction of His Excellency. I particularly enjoin you to submit to His Excellency the earliest information of your proceedings of a political nature under these instructions.

If circumstances should render it necessary for His Excellency Lt.-General Stuart to unite the whole force of the army in the field and to assume in person the general command in the Deccan, in that case I hereby vest the authority conveyed to you by this dispatch in His Excellency Lt.-General Stuart, under the fullest confidence that he will exercise it with the same advantage to the public service which I have uniformly derived from the exertion of His Excellency's distinguished talents, experience and virtues.

In the case supposed, I empower His Excellency to delegate the whole or any part of the said authority to you and I desire that in exercising the said authority or any part thereof in his own person, His Excellency will be pleased to communicate fully with you and to receive your advice and opinion.

In the execution of these instructions I authorize and direct you to employ any additional military staff and to require the services of any civil officers, whose assistance you may deem necessary to the despatch of the arduous affairs connected with the subject of this order.

**No. 182**—The Governor General empowers General Wellesley to direct the negotiations with Sindhia and Bhonsla, and also to begin and conclude hostilities against them if any need for the same arose. The General is asked to see that the military power of the Maratha Chiefs, specially that of Sindhia is completely crushed. The possible terms and demands to be made from the various chiefs, if peace is concluded with them, are mentioned at length.

**FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,  
TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY.**

*Fort William, 27th June 1803.*

The conduct of Sindhia and of the Raja of Berar requires a special notification to you of my views and intentions with regard to the operations of your army and to such political proceedings as may be connected with a state of war between the British Government and those Chiefs.

First. On receipt of this dispatch, you will desire Colonel Collins to demand an explicit declaration of the views of Sindhia and of the Raja of Berar within such a number of days as shall appear to you to be reasonable, consistently with a due attention to the period of the season, and to the facility of moving your army, and of prosecuting hostilities with the advantages which you now possess.

If that explanation should not be satisfactory on such grounds as, in your discretion, you may state to Colonel Collins, you will desire Colonel Collins to repair to your camp under a proper escort.

In this event, or in any other state of circumstances which may appear to you to require hostilities, consistently with the general tenor of my instructions, you will employ the forces under your command in the most active operations against Sindhia or the Raja of Berar, or against both, according to your discretion.

It is probable that the state of the rivers will afford great advantages to your army, and will embarrass the enemy in a considerable degree, if hostilities should commence during the rainy monsoon. In this event, I direct you to use your utmost efforts to destroy the military power of either or of both Chiefs, and especially of Sindhia, and to avail yourself of every advantage which circumstances may offer, to the utmost extent of the strength of your army. It is particularly desirable that you should destroy Sindhia's artillery, and all arms of European construction, and all military stores which he may possess.

In the event of hostilities, you will, therefore, proceed to the utmost extremity which may appear to you to promise success, without admitting pacific negotiation until the power of the opposing Chiefs shall have been completely destroyed. In such case, the actual seizure of the person of Sindhia, or of Raghoji Bhonsla, would be highly desirable, and the state of the rivers may perhaps favour such an advantage.

In any crisis which may exist under the tenor of your approach, or at any time after hostilities shall have actually commenced, I empower you to conclude peace with Sindhia, or with the Raja of Berar, jointly or separately, on such terms as may appear to you most advisable. I shall, however, state to you the objects most desirable, in the event of any treaty with either or with both those Chiefs, founded on their aggression and on our success or power.

The entire reduction of Sindhia's power would certainly afford considerable security to our interests; in the event, however, of a peace with Sindhia which should leave his power in existence among the states of India, the most desirable arrangement would be :—first, that Sindhia should cede to the Company all his possessions, rights, and pretensions, within the countries to the northward of a line drawn from the north frontier of Gohad, to the frontier of Jainagar, together with all his possessions, etc., to the northward of Jainagar. This cession would include Agra, Delhi, and the remainder of the Doab of the Jamuna, and the Ganges. The Mughal's person would necessarily fall under our protection. This article must be a special stipulation of the treaty. Our frontier towards the ceded provinces of Oudh would then be formed by the small state of Gohad, and by the Rajput States of Jainagar and Jodhpur. The Raja of Gohad to become tributary to the Company; Gwalior to be occupied by the Company. Defensive alliances to be formed with Jainagar and Jodhpur. By this arrangement the Marathas

would be excluded from the north of Hindustan, and from communication with the Sikhs. Secondly, Sindhia to cede Broach, and all his maritime possessions. Thirdly, Sindhia to cede all his possessions, rights, &c. in Gujrat. Fourthly, Sindhia to cede all his possessions, &c. southward of the Narbada.

Arrangements might be made for a partition of these cessions with the the Peshwa and the Nizam. In the event of hostilities with Sindhia and Holkar, and of the complete defeat of those Chiefs; the most distinct arrangement would be to take for the Company all the territories, rights, or pretensions, of Sindhia and of the Holkar, to the northward and westward of the Narbada, and to make that river the boundary of the northern frontier of the Peshwa, giving to the Peshwa all the territories, &c. of those Chiefs to the southward of the Narbada, with the exception of all sea-ports which must be reserved to the Company. Bundelkhand to be properly subject to the Peshwa. It would be desirable to obtain that province for the Company, with a view to secure the navigation of the Jumna, and to the further security of the province of Benares.

From the Raja of Berar I should wish to acquire the whole province of Cuttak, so as to unite the Northern Sarkars by a continued line of sea coast with Bengal. This cession, including Belasore, &c. to be made either absolutely, or upon payment of a moderate rent, or as a security for a subsidiary force to be introduced into the dominions of the Raja of Berar. The district of Garha Mandal has been an object to the Nizam. This object is to be pursued according to circumstances in the event of war with the Raja of Berar. Without securing one or other of these advantages, you will not make peace with the Raja of Berar after he shall have compelled you to resort to hostilities against him, unless, in your discretion, you should deem peace with the Raja of Berar advisable on different terms.

You are at liberty, generally, to modify the terms of peace herein suggested at your discretion, or to change them altogether if it should become advisable to detach any chief from the confederacy.

If Holkar should join the confederacy, you will act towards him on the principles of the preceding instructions. It is not desirable to erect Holkar's accidental power into an established state of India. His reduction would certainly be the most advisable policy; but the conduct and modification of our relations with Holkar must be left entirely to your discretion. You will not, however, prosecute hostilities against Holkar merely for the purpose of obtaining indemnity for the plunder of Aurangabad, or for any other predatory incursions; such question may be reserved for amicable negotiation.

In the event of hostilities, you will take proper measures for withdrawing the European officers from the service of Sindhia, Holkar, and of every other chief opposed to you.

You are at liberty to incur any expense requisite for this service, and to employ such emissaries as may appear most serviceable. You are also at liberty to enter into such engagements as may appear advantageous with any of Sindhia's ministers, chiefs, or servants or with those of the Raja of Berar, or of Holkar, and to afford any useful encouragement to the party of the Bais or to any others in the dominions of any of the confederate chiefs.

In the event of hostilities, I propose to dispatch proper emissaries to Gohad, and to the Rajput Chiefs. You will also employ every endeavour to excite those powers against Sindhia. I propose to engage to guarantee their independence, and to secure to them any other reasonable advantages which they may require. The independence of the Rajput Chiefs would constitute a power which would form the best security to our north-western frontier in Hindustan, in the supposition of Sindhia's reduction.

You will apprise His Excellency General Lake, through the most expeditious channel (if any more expeditious communication should offer than through Calcutta) of your plan of political and military operations under these circumstances.

Sindhia's retreat across the Narbada (after his insolent and hostile declaration to Colonel Collins of the 28th of May) will not alone be a sufficient proof of his pacific intentions ; unless, therefore, Sindhia shall have afforded full satisfaction and security in your judgment, you will pursue him across the Narbada, if you should deem that movement advisable for the purpose of reducing his means of mischief.

The same principle applies to any movement of the Raja of Berar or of Holkar. The retreat of Raghuji Bhonsla or of Holkar to any place situated within their respective territories, or elsewhere, will not exclusively amount to a sufficient degree of satisfaction and security, after the recent proofs which the confederacy has disclosed of determined hostility and arrogant ambition.

You will consider what steps may be taken to excite Kashi Rao Holkar against Jaswant Rao ; and if in prosecuting hostilities, you should be able to obtain possession of the person of Khande Rao Holkar, you will avail yourself of that advantage.

The precise time of action from Oudh and in Cuttak cannot now be stated ; but I will seize Agra, Delhi, take the person of the Mughal under British protection, and occupy the Doab, together with Cuttak, at the earliest practicable moment after I shall have learnt that you deem hostilities inevitable, or as soon as such measures of precaution may appear to me to be requisite.

In the movements of your army, and in all your proceedings under these instructions, you will advert to the precarious state of the Nizam's health, and to the necessity of preserving our interests at Hyderabad in the event of His Highness's decease. The Resident at Hyderabad will apprise you of the orders which he has received from me respecting the succession to the *masand* of the Deccan.

Although a division of the French troops is already arrived at Pondicherry, and the remainder may be soon expected, I desire that you will not be induced, by that event, to precipitate an accommodation with any of the Maratha powers. The effectual security of our interests in the Maratha Empire is the strongest barrier which can be opposed to the progress of the French interests in India; the early reduction of Sindhia (if that Chief should compel us to resort to hostilities) is certain and would prove a fatal blow to the views of France. An imperfect arrangement with the Maratha powers, or a delay of active measures might open to France the means of engaging with advantage in the affairs of the Maratha Empire.

**No. 183**—Collins is informed about the powers delegated to Maj.-Gen. A. Wellesley and is asked to act as the representative of the British Government at the court of Bhonsla also so long as Bhonsla continues to stay in the vicinity of Sindhia's camp.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 27th June 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of His Excellency's instructions to the honourable Major-General Wellesley under date the 26th instant.

His Excellency directs you to conform to such intimations as Major-General Wellesley may convey to you in conformity to the powers vested in that officer by His Excellency the Governor General and to afford to Major-General Wellesley every degree of practicable aid in the exercise of the authority delegated to Major-General Wellesley by those instructions.

At the same time His Excellency desires that it may be distinctly understood that by the delegation of those extensive powers to Major-General Wellesley, it is not the intention of His Excellency to preclude

you from the exercise of the ordinary functions of your official situation, or from carrying into effect any special orders and instructions which you have received or may receive from the Governor General without previous reference to Major-General Wellesley except in cases immediately connected with the measures which Major-General Wellesley may adopt under the authority vested in him by His Excellency the Governor General, whose object in delegating those powers to Major-General Wellesley is to obviate the injury to which the public service might be eventually exposed by the delay of a reference to the supreme authority of the British Government in cases requiring an immediate decision.

You will of course consider these instructions to be equally applicable to the case of an eventual transfer to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Stuart of the powers, now vested in the honourable Major-General Wellesley.

I am further directed by His Excellency the Governor General to take this occasion to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to the 4th instant addressed to the Secretary to Government in the secret department and to inform you that His Excellency highly approves your intention of communicating to the Raja of Berar a copy of His Excellency's letter to that Chieftain of the 13th of May, in the event of his not having received the original of that letter. His Excellency further desires that during the Raja of Berar's continuance in the vicinity of Daulat Rao Sindhia's camp, you will consider yourself to be authorised to exercise all the duties and functions of the representative of the British Government at that Chieftain's court.

His Excellency, however, does not deem it expedient to transmit to the Raja of Berar formal notice of the delegation of this authority, as it is possible that the Raja might found on such a nomination a pretext for prolonging his continuance in the vicinity of Sindhia's camp.

On the other, hand it is possible that the Raja of Berar may refuse to admit the validity of your negotiations with him without the production of a formal authority from the Governor General empowering you to act in the capacity of British representative at his court, His Excellency, therefore, deems it expedient to transmit to you regular credentials for that purpose.

Those credentials are enclosed in this dispatch. You are not, however, to produce them to the Raja unless in the event supposed in the preceding paragraph.

**No. 184**—Sindhia moves towards Malkapur.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Malkapur, 27th June 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 23rd instant forwarding duplicates of the letters addressed to Raja Raghuj Bhonsla and to Daulat Rao Sindhia by His Highness the Peshwa, which letters I shall take the earliest occasion of presenting or sending to those Chieftains.

While I was on a visit to the Berar Raja, Sindhia moved three kos nearer to Malkapur, and has since marched five kos further. The Maharaja gave me no intimation of his intention to change ground until he had actually commenced his march.

**No. 185**—Translate of Munute taken by Manshi Mirza Bakar Khan of a conversation which he held on the 23th June 1803 with Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia and his minister Jadu Rao Bhau.

Conformably to your orders, I went to the durbar of Daulat Rao Sindhia, accompanied by Ganpat Rai, on the 28th instant, for the purpose of reminding the Maharaja that the period which he had fixed for giving his final determination on the question submitted by you, was now elapsed. On my arrival at the Maratha camp I found that Daulat Rao Sindhia was absent on a hunting party, but Jadu Rao Bhau sent for Ganpat Rai and me to his own tent; and after remarking that the appointed six days being expired, the Maharaja halted at this place merely in order to deliver his reply to you he stated that Raja Raghuj Bhonsla would join the camp of the Maharaja tomorrow in the evening, at which the particular time for you to visit the Durbar would be settled; that the Maharaja and Raja Raghuj Bhonsla would request your attendance on the following day, and would jointly return an answer to your questions. Jadu Rao said that if it was the intention of the English to preserve the existing relations of friendship between both states, you would certainly attend to each particular article of the reply, and use your endeavours to obtain the adjustment of all by the most noble the Governor General; or that after having received the reply, you would act as you might think proper. To this I answered, that you had at various meetings repeatedly explained to the Maharaja, the intention of the most noble the Governor General, but more especially on the 28th of May, when you fully apprized him of the objects of the most noble the Governor General, and enlarged on the instability of the friendship subsisting between both Sarkars; that the Maharaja told you in reply, that after an interview between him and Raja Raghuj Bhonsla should take place, you should be informed whether he would continue in friendship with the English, or the reverse;



and that all you now desired was, that the Maharaja would explicitly declare which of these alternatives he would adopt. Jadu Rao Bhau said, the Maharaja entertained no thought whatever but that of friendship, provided that friendship was in like manner the intention of the most noble the Governor General. After this, Jadu Rao, Ganpat Rai, and I proceeded to the durbar when, in presence of the Maharaja, the conversation which I have just recited again took place; Jadu Rao further observing, that scarcity of forage occasioned the movement from the last encampment, and the determination to march as far as the *ghat* of Ajanta, which at present it was not the Maharaja's intention to ascend, but to halt below it some time. The Maharaja here observed that it was solely with the view of replying to your questions that he had halted two days at this place. I now presented the Peshwa's letter of the 25th of Safar to the Maharaja, telling him at the same time, that it was duplicate which Colonel Close transmitted to you, to be delivered to the Maharaja in the case the original might have miscarried. Jadu Rao read the letters; on which the Maharaja remarked, that the original of it had never reached him, and Jadu Rao observed that no dependence could be placed on any letters of this nature before an interview had taken place between the Maharaja and His Highness the Peshwa. Raja Ambaji was present during the conversation at Jadu Rao's tent, and at the durbar.

**No. 186**—In this note the Governor General explicitly states to Lord Lake the territories to be acquired by the English in the event of war with Sindhia. He also details the policy to be followed in respect of the various other powers and states in Northern India, which might prove helpful to the English against Sindhia, and directs at length as to how the attack should be directed on the territories of Sindhia.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, (LORD LAKE).

*Fort William, 28th June 1803.*

The operations of our army, in the event of war with Sindhia, must be directed to the following objects :—

1. To seize all his possessions between the Ganges and Jamuna.
2. To take the person of the Mughal Shah Alam under our protection.
3. To form alliances with the Rajputs and other inferior states beyond the Jamuna, for the purpose of excluding Sindhia from the northern districts of Hindustan.
4. To occupy Bundelkhand, and thus to strengthen the frontier of the province of Benares against Sindhia or the Raja of Berar.

The success of such a plan of operations would exclude the Marathas altogether from the northern parts of Hindustan, would establish a powerful barrier between our frontier and that of Sindhia, by the intervention of the Rajput and other inferior states, strengthened under our protection.

In the execution of such a plan, the following circumstances would require immediate attention :—

First. The immediate reduction of the forces collected under the command of M. Perron.

Second. The possession of the forts and passes to the southward of the Jamuna, which would impede the march of an army from the Deccan.

M. Perron's forces are said to be at present collected at Koil, and to consist of about eight thousand infantry, and to equal number of cavalry. Sindhia, it is generally believed, has no confidence in M. Perron's attachment to his government. In the event of a war with the British Government, it is probable that Sindhia will endeavour to conciliate M. Perron ; and the prospect of this crisis of affairs, which would render M. Perron's conduct an object of attention to both states, may have contributed to induce M. Perron to postpone his avowed intention of relinquishing Sindhia's service, in the hope of more advantageous offers from Sindhia or from the British Government.

A considerable number of the sepoys who were discharged from the British army at the late reduction, are said to have entered into M. Perron's service ; and it is supposed, that if any new corps were raised in the vicinity of their station, many would return to the service ; and that Sindhia's European officers might be induced to resign the service of Sindhia by offers of a present subsistence, and of a future establishment in the service of some of the allies or tributaries of the British Government.

It must be ascertained whether it would be safe or practicable to endeavour to detach M. Perron, or any of the European officers in Sindhia's service, or any of Sindhia's troops, from their employment with Sindhia ; and whether any, and what emissary, should be sent to M. Perron or to the officers.

If opposition is ultimately to be expected from M. Perron's force, a detachment of an adequate strength, formed at Sasni or Bijaigarh, might either attack M. Perron at Koil, or, by an easy change of position, might intercept his communication with Agra, where it is probable the principal supplies and military stores would be lodged, unless such a measure should have been prevented by the seasonable interposition of a British force between Agra and Koil, where M. Perron's principal depots are understood to be established at present.

The fort of Agra is extensive, but insufficiently supplied with artillery ; a new bastion is said to have been constructed where it was formerly breached by M. De Boigne, but this work is said not to have added essentially to the defences of the place.

After the reduction of M. Perron's force, the principal object would appear to be, to prevent Sindhia from entering Hindustan with a large body of cavalry.

If operations against M. Perron's force should be necessary, a separate detachment of sufficient force might be formed at Etawah, to proceed directly upon Gwalior which covers the principal route from Ujjain into Sindhia's possessions in Hindustan.

The position at Gwalior would probably render it impossible for Sindhia to enter Hindustan with a considerable body of cavalry.

The Rana of Gohad is said to be reduced to poverty, and to be destitute of resources of power. This Chief, however, is said to retain considerable influence with the Jats.

It is said, that the Rana of Gohad is anxious to obtain the support of the British Government; with our support he would probably be enabled to raise a considerable force, which might assist in opposing Sindhia's march into Hindustan. The possession of the fortress of Gwalior by British troops would enable us to support the Rana's authority in the country, and would encourage the Jats to assist their native chief against the depredations of Sindhia. The Jat Rajas holding the strong forts of Bharatpur, Kumbher and Dig, to the southward of Agra and Muttra, are believed to be desirous of exchanging their dependence on Sindhia for the protection of the British Government, would present an almost insurmountable barrier to Sindhia's resumption of influence in Hindustan.

As these chiefs could furnish considerable bodies of cavalry, a small force of British infantry and artillery would be sufficient to counteract any force of that description Sindhia could detach from the Deccan.

Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand are considered as fiefs holden from the Peshwa. Occupied by the British Government, either as a security for subsidy from the Peshwa, or in consequence of a subsidy granted for the support of the internal government of Bundelkhand or Baghelkhand by British troops, these countries would oppose an effectual barrier to any attempts of the Raja of Berar to disturb the tranquillity of the Company's provinces from those quarters.

It is believed that Sindhia has stationed a body of predatory horse at Kalpi and Augassi, on the southern bank of the Jamuna. This point requires immediate attention.

With a view to preparation for a war directed to all the points stated in this note, it would appear to be proper :—

#### Military Preparations.

First. That the main body of our troops should be assembled at a point between M. Perron's station and Agra, and Shah Alam invited to put himself under its protection as soon as the communication with Delhi may be opened.

Second. That Agra should be seized, if possible, by a separate detachment to be assembled at Shikohabad.

Third. That another detachment should proceed from Etawah to occupy Gwalior.

Fourth. That Bundelkhand should be occupied by a force to be assembled at Allahabad, or in its vicinity.

Political.

First. A negotiation with M. Perron.

Second. With his European officers.

Third. With his troops.

Fourth. With the Rana of Gohad and Jat Chiefs of Bharatpur and Kumbher.

Fifth. With the Rajput Chiefs of Jainagar and Jodhpur.

Sixth. With the Chiefs of Bundelkhand.

*N.B.*—The Commander-in-Chief will make any preparations which he may deem necessary in draft or carriage cattle immediately, and will order any corps from any of the lower stations.

Benares must be well protected until Bundelkhand shall be occupied.

*Query.*—Does the Commander-in-Chief think that the experimental horse artillery, with any addition from the body-guard, would be useful?

The Commander-in-Chief will be so good as to transmit any observations which may occur to him upon these notes, with a detailed plan of a campaign against Sindhia.

**No. 187**—Sindhia and Bhonsla having come nearer, Collins thinks that both of them can no longer delay expressing their final determination. Collins also points out the possibility of Sindhia ascending the Ajanta Ghat.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Selore, 29th June 1803.*

On my arrival at this ground yesterday morning, I sent Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan and Ganpat Rai to Daulat Rao Sindhia for the purpose of reminding him of his promised explanation, and I now do myself the honor of forwarding, for Your Excellency's information, a copy and translate of minutes, taken by Mirza Bakar, of the conversation which he had, on this occasion, as well with Jadu Rao Bhau as with the Maharaja.

Although Daulat Rao Sindhia may not intend to ascend the *ghat* of Ajanta, yet I have apprized the hon'ble General Wellesley of the intention of the Maharaja to proceed thither, as this *ghat* is on the boundary of the territory of His Highness the Nizam and only distant thirty five *kos* from Aurangabad.

Raja Raghuji Bhonsla arrived with his army this morning in the vicinity of Sindhia's encampment, so that I do not see how these Chieftains can any longer postpone giving me their final determination. I omitted

to apprise Your Lordship that the Berar Raja has received the original letter, addressed to him by Your Excellency under date the 22nd ultimo.

**No. 188**—Stuart acquaints Close with the difficulties experienced and losses sustained by Gen. A. Wellesley due to the severe weather and want of forage.

FROM—J. STUART, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Maski, 1st July 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 21st of June with enclosures, which I immediately forwarded to the right honourable the Governor of Fort St. George.

General Wellesley has written to inform me of the great loss he has sustained in his carriage departments by the death of his cattle owing to the severe weather he has experienced, and the want of forage, and I have in consequence this day despatched under an escort of the 1st Battalion of the 10th with two guns (and 30 recovered Europeans belonging to his army) for his camp, 5,000 carriage bullocks, 2,500 of which are loaded with rice. I have likewise sent him by this escort three lakhs of pagodas, and 100 kegs filled with arracks. This I have advised him of and sent him the route the convoy is to follow. On its march he may reinforce it from his army should he judge it necessary.

**No. 189**—Close sends to Stuart copies of the correspondence that passed between Malcolm and Collins.

FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—LT.-GEN. JAMES STUART, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

*Poona, 1st July 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 23rd ultimo. As it contains your sentiments on the present posture of affairs I have judged it proper to forward a copy of it to Major Malcolm who has lately joined the hon'ble Major-General Wellesley. The enclosed correspondence of late date between Major Malcolm and Colonel Collins will show you that the Major's opinions at the present juncture are much in consonance with yours. The letter from General Wellesley to Colonel Collins alluded to by the Major will probably be transmitted to you by the General himself. From some communications which have lately passed between General Wellesley, Major Malcolm and myself I conclude that the General will transmit a copy of the Treaty of Bassein, to Holkar with such amicable explanations as may be suggested by present appearances.

**No. 190**—In this letter the Governor General is informed of another interview of Collins with Sindhia, in which Sindhia promised to give a final reply in some days only after meeting Bhonsla once again.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Selore, July 2nd, 1803.*

In my address of the 29th ultimo I had the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Berar Raja was arrived in the vicinity of the encampment of Daulat Rao Sindhia. This intelligence was true, but on the same day Raghuji Bhonsla returned to Malkapur under a pretext that his baggage was detained at that place for want of carriage. In all probability this retrograde movement on the part of the Berar Raja was made with a view to protract the explanation that I had demanded from this court and which had been so often and so shamelessly evaded. However, I was so very urgent with the Maharaja and with his ministers that they were induced to grant me an audience yesterday afternoon, when I waited on Sindhia accompanied by Captain Paris Bradshaw, Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan, and Ganpat Rai.

After paying my compliments to Daulat Rao Sindhia, I began with remonstrating against the evasions which the servants of the Maharaja had practised in order to render the written promise of their master of no avail. I said that such arts were unbecoming the ministers of so great a Chieftain, and could not fail to lessen the character of their Prince. I then observed that ten days had now elapsed without any explanation on the part of this Court, although I had been promised in six, and that I should not suffer myself to be any longer amused or deceived. Jadu Rao Bhau after assuring me that I should soon receive the information which I had required, commenced a long discourse in which he expatiated on the wisdom of due deliberation in all affairs of importance, that in former times, during the life of Nana Fadnavis, whenever any material arrangement was in agitation, it had been usual to assemble all the Chiefs of the Deccan for the purpose of learning their respective opinions, that Daulat Rao Sindhia in like manner and with the same intent had invited the Berar Raja to an interview, and that the Maharaja also designed to consult other Sardars respecting the present situation of the Maratha Empire. This was the substance of Jadu Rao's speech, to which I replied that in all matters of difficulty it might be wise to take the advice of many friends, but that in the present instance no such necessity existed, since the Maharaja assuredly knew his own mind, and might therefore at once declare whether it should be peace or war with the English, and whether it were his intention to oppose the arrangements lately concluded

at Bassein. Jadu Rao said that these points could not be decided on until Daulat Rao Sindhia had held one more conference with the Berar Raja whose return was expected on the 3rd instant.

I replied that there was no necessity whatever for awaiting the return of Raghuji Bhonsla, since it was well known that this Chief had all along been desirous of preserving the friendship of the English and that it was not without great difficulty and much persuasion that Jadu Rao Bhau had been able to prevail on the Berar Raja to leave the capital for the purpose of having an interview with Daulat Rao Sindhia on this occasion.

I then remarked that the Maharaja having promised to inform me whether there should be peace or war, after he had consulted with the Berar Raja, I was now come to learn his final determination as well on this question as on that relating to his intentions with respect to the engagements concluded at Bassein. I further observed that the English and Maratha armies were now prepared for action, and nearly approached each other, consequently that all evasions must be laid aside, else hostilities might immediately ensue. This being spoken in a very serious and determined manner, induced Jadu Rao to declare that the Maharaja was desirous of preserving and maintaining the relations of friendship which had so long subsisted between his Sarkar and the British Government, adding that his State would never be the aggressor in any war with the English, and concluding with a request that I would communicate the foregoing assurances to Your Excellency and to the honourable Major General Wellesley. I said that the Maharaja was the person who first introduced the question of peace or war, and therefore that I should not repeat any assurance but such as I received from his own mouth. Sindhia then made a declaration exactly similar to that which Jadu Rao Bhau had given, and desired me to write the same to Your Excellency, to which I readily assented. I then brought forward the second question, namely, whether the Court intended to oppose the arrangement lately concluded between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government, but although I persisted in declaring that until this question was fairly answered Your Lordship would place little reliance in the amicable professions of the Maharaja, yet Jadu Rao affirmed that the reply I required could only be got in the presence of the Berar Raja, and that it should not be delayed more than four or five days. I told Jadu Rao that I had received so many promises of a similar nature, none of which had been fulfilled, that I had no longer any faith in them and I desired Sindhia and his ministers to recollect that I was by no means responsible for the consequences of their present evasions which might, for anything I knew, be the cause of immediate hostilities, since these evasions could only be practised with a view to afford time for the junction of the forces of some other Sardar. Jadu Rao solemnly disavowed any such intention, so did his brother Anna Bhaskar and both earnestly pressed me to stay a few days longer. I complied at length with their insistence, but at the

same time observed that I must not be blamed should the British troops commence hostilities in consequence of the delay of this Court in giving the promised explanation, and I assured them that the honourable General Wellesley was fully apprized of all my late conferences and transactions with this Durbar. This seemed to alarm Jadu Rao who remarked that the General now occupied a position with his army in the territory of Daulat Rao Sindhia somewhere between Jangaon and Ahmednagar. I replied that the Maharaja was advanced with his troops towards the frontier of our ally, the Nawab Nizam, apparently with hostile designs and that the honourable General Wellesley had chosen such a situation for the British army as in his judgment appeared the most advantageous for military operations in the event of war. Jadu Rao then said that after the Maharaja had held another conference with Raghuji Bhonsla, which he expected would take place in two or three days, these Chiefs would propose to me the return of the English and Maratha armies to their respective countries. I asked why this proposal might not be submitted to me then, but Jadu Rao declared that a point of so much importance could not be determined on without the concurrence of the Berar Raja.

Here the conference ended and I took leave of the Maharaja who seemed in much better spirits and temper at this interview than he was when I had the honour to meet him on the 28th of May. The ministers likewise appeared more complaisant than usual, which I ascribed chiefly to the present position of the British troops under the command of the hon'ble Major-General Wellesley.

**No. 191**—Collins informs the Governor General about his interview with Sindhia and Bhonsla, and adds that he is personally inclined to infer that their friendly professions are insincere.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Jamner, 6th July 1803.*

In the afternoon of the 4th instant I had an interview with Daulat Rao Sindhia and with Raghuji Bhonsla at the tent of the latter chieftain. I was attended on this occasion by Captain Paris Bradshaw, Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan, and Ganpat Rai; Shridhar Pant, Kashi Rao, the eldest son, and the brother of the Berar Raja, were present at this conference; also Jadu Rao Bhaskar, Anna Bhaskar, Vitthal Pant, and Ambaji Ingle, on the part of Sindhia.

After an interchange of compliments, I commenced the conversation by observing that I had for some time past been extremely anxious to obtain an audience of those chieftains, in order to learn their final determination respecting the line of conduct which they intend to pursue, in consequence of the engagements lately concluded at Bassein between



His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government ; and I concluded with expressing my belief that the result of the present meeting would enable me to assure Your Excellency of the friendly disposition of both chieftains towards the British Government.

Here I paused, in expectation of a reply ; but as none was given, I proceeded to state, that the Treaty of Bassein was purely of a defensive nature ; that it contained no stipulation whatever injurious to the just rights of any of the Deccani Sardars, but on the contrary, had expressly provided for the security and independence of the feudatory Maratha Chiefs ; that the principal object of the Treaty of Bassein was to preserve the peace of India ; that Your Lordship regarded Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghujī Bhonsla as the ancient friends of the honourable Company, and was, on this account, willing to improve the existing connection between their states and the British Government. I insisted on the right of the Peshwa to contract engagements with the English without consulting with any of the Maratha Sardars ; I desired the Berar Raja would advert to the very clear exposition of the views and principles which induced the Treaty of Bassein, as set forth in Your Excellency's letter to his address, under date the 15th of last May ; I observed that this letter contained the most satisfactory proofs of the moderation and justice of the British Government. Then, addressing myself to Daulat Rao Sindhia, I said, that conformably to Your Lordship's directions, I had already given the same explanation to him verbally ; and I reminded the Maharaja of his having positively assured me on the 24th of last May that he had no intention whatever to obstruct the completion of the engagements lately concluded at Bassein. I then remarked, that I only required from him a confirmation of this assurance, together with a similar declaration on the part of Raja Raghujī Bhonsla ; and in conclusion, I declared, that it was Your Lordship's earnest desire to promote the prosperity of their respective Sarkars ; and that they might safely rely on the continued friendship of the British Government so long as they refrained from committing acts of aggression against the English and their allies.

Instead of making any observation on the foregoing discourse, Shridhar Pant entered into a most tedious explanation of the conduct which ought to have been adopted by the Peshwa, previously to his forming a new treaty with the British Government. He said, it had been invariably the usage on such occasions, to consult with the Deccan Sardars ; whereas Baji Rao had acted in the present instance not only without the concurrence, but even without the knowledge of Raghujī Bhonsla and Daulat Rao Sindhia, although they were his friends, and confessedly the most powerful Chiefs in the Maratha Empire. This is the substance of the only material points urged by Shridhar Pant. I replied that His Highness the Peshwa had repeatedly written both to the Maharaja and to the Berar Raja to repair to Poona, but that these

requisition of His Highness had not been complied with ; that in consequence, the Peshwa was left without any means of defence against his enemies, except that which he derived from the English, to whom His Highness was solely indebted for the preservation of his life, honour, and dignity. I further observed, that his (the minister's) reference to old usages was inconclusive, in as much as no one instance had been adduced, tending to prove that the Peshwa had not an undoubted right to enter into new engagements with the English, independently of the consent of any of the feudatory Maratha Chiefs ; and that in fact, the only point for consideration was, whether Raghuji Bhonsla and Daulat Rao Sindhia designed to oppose the completion of a treaty actually concluded between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government.

Here again Shridhar Pant made a long speech, containing, for the most part, professions of the friendly disposition which his master entertained towards the British Government. He ended by remarking that the English troops having crossed the Godavari, were advancing towards the Ghat of Ajanta. In consequence of which, he requested I would write to the honourable General Wellesley for the purpose of prevailing on him to recall the detachment. I excused myself from preferring any request of the kind ; and observed, that the British troops generally advanced when any army was approaching them, but never retreated. I then recurred to the question which I had so frequently stated. Shridhar Pant said, that he had a great many remarks to make on the different articles of the Treaty of Bassein ; I replied that these remarks might be committed to writing, and hereafter be sent to Your Excellency, but in the meantime I expected he would answer my question. The Bhonsla's minister then objected that the Peshwa had not, to this hour, informed either Sindhia or Raghuji of his having concluded a new treaty with the English. I reminded Shridhar Pant of the duplicate letters which both the Maharaja and the Berar Raja had received through me from His Highness the Peshwa, and in which His Highness expressly mentions having improved the friendship that had so long subsisted between his government and that of the honourable Company. Both Jadu Rao and Shridhar Pant admitted the correctness of this statement ; but said, that their masters had never received the originals, and gave me to understand that they yielded no credit whatever to the duplicates. On this head, much warm conversation ensued ; but both Shridhar Pant and Jadu Rao declared, that it was necessary, for the satisfaction of the Bhonsla and of Sindhia, that they should receive the foregoing information from the Peshwa himself, and that for this purpose they intended deputing two confidential persons to Poona. In the meantime they assured me that their masters had no design whatever to oppose any engagements which the British might have contracted with His Highness ; and they also promised that their armies should not advance towards Poona, nor ascend the Ajanta Ghat : After giving these assurances, they requested I would

endeavour to prevent the nearer approach of the British troops under the command of Colonel Stevenson. I replied, that to evince the sincerity of their present professions, it was indispensably requisite that Daulat Rao Sindhia should recross the Narbada, and the Bhonsla repair to Nagpur; that while they continued in this quarter with their armies, it was impossible for Your Excellency to rely on their friendly promises; and I added, that if the Maharaja and the Berar Raja would immediately return to their respective capitals, that I had no doubt of obtaining the consent of the honourable General Wellesley to withdraw his forces also. But although I persisted in contending and urging this point a considerable time, and did not fail to state that the continuance of the Maratha armies in this quarter would most probably be productive of serious evils, yet I could obtain no satisfactory assurance either from Jadu Rao or Shridhar Pant, that Sindhia and the Bhonsla would shortly return to their respective capitals; and hence I am inclined to infer that their friendly professions are insincere.

Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla both promised to send me letters on the following day for Your Excellency, containing the strongest assurances of their determination to preserve and maintain the relations of friendship, which have so long subsisted between their states and the British Government. I waited for these letters during the whole of yesterday; but as they are not yet sent to me, although this day be far advanced, I shall no longer defer the despatch of my present address.

**No. 192**—The Governor General fully approves of the course of conduct followed and the policy pursued by Collins in his negotiations with Sindhia and Bhonsla.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 6th July 1803.*

*Secret Department.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 258 under date 12th June, and to communicate to you His Excellency's highest approbation of your conduct in the important crisis of affairs described in that despatch. His Excellency considers your conduct on this occasion to have been distinguished by the greatest degree of spirit, firmness and decision as well as by the most sound judgment and discretion and by that moderation which becomes the representatives of the British Government even under the most insulting and unwarrantable provocation. His Excellency entirely approves the memorial which you presented to Daulat Rao Sindhia. You will find by your subsequent receipt of communications made to you

by His Excellency's authority, that the course which you have pursued on the present occasion is entirely conformable to His Excellency's intentions and to the principles of policy by which His Excellency is desirous of regulating the conduct of the British Government towards Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Raja of Berar.

Further instructions will be transmitted to you at the earliest practicable period of time. In the meanwhile His Excellency the Governor General deeming it expedient that you should receive the earliest encouragement to pursue the course of conduct which you have so judiciously commenced, has been pleased to direct the immediate communication of his entire concurrence in the measures which you have adopted and his peculiar approbation of the ability, temper, promptitude and judgment by which they have been distinguished.

I am directed to take this opportunity of noticing the great interval of time which elapses between the date and the receipt of your despatches. Your last despatch which is dated the 12th ultimo was not received until yesterday, a period of 23 days. His Excellency directs me to suggest the expediency of your establishing in concert with the Resident at Hyderabad and Major-General Wellesley, a dak between your position and that capital for the purpose of accelerating your communication both with the Presidency and with the Resident at Hyderabad. It is to be presumed that in your present situation your despatches will arrive at the Presidency within a shorter period of time by the way of Hyderabad than by the more circuitous route of Hindustan and Farrukhabad.

**No. 193**—The news-letter supplies detailed information about the exact position and situation of the army of Jaswant Rao Holkar.

*Translation of a letter from a News-writer in Holkar's camp ;  
dated 6th July 1803.*

Holkar is encamped at Vaghadi, six *kos* to the westward of Tapti. Shahamat Khan and Nagu Jiwaji are encamped to the southward of the Tapti, two *kos* from Kalpi [?Koparli], which is to the southward of that river ; Mir Khan's army is also on the southern bank of the Tapti near Talner ; Fakhruddin's brother is employed by the Gaikwad to guard the Kondai Baree pass near Songarh, and Himmat Singh\* [Hirnat ?] with 4,000 horse and a brigade of infantry, has entered the Kondai Baree, and is now at the foot of it. Himmat Singh, it is said, has successfully intrigued with the Gaikwad commander, who has agreed, it is said, to give him a free entrance into the Surat country.

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\*There is a mistake here in the name of the Sardar.

Jaswant Rao Ramchandrar, vakil of Raghujii Bhonsla, has come to negotiate on the part of his master with Holkar, who tells him that he is distressed for want of provisions, and that he must proceed for subsistence to some cultivated country ; that the Bhonsla has long trifled with him, and that he can have no trust in what he says. To this the vakil has replied, that the boy, Khande Rao Holkar, will be sent to him ; that the country all around will be open for the passage of provisions to his camp ; and that it is necessary he should join Sindhia and the Bhonsla, in order to proceed to Poona, and settle the affairs of the Maratha State.

It is reported, that in a few days the boy Khande Rao is to arrive in Holkar's camp. Holkar's troops are much dispirited ; they can scarcely procure grain to subsist on, and they get no pay. Many, therefore, desert daily, and the talk in camp is, if the English come, who will remain with Holkar to oppose them ?

Holkar's intention was to prosecute his march to the northward, but new propositions from Raghujii Bhonsla has induced him to postpone his march with the view further to watch events.

Of Holkar's army that returned to Khandesh, not one-half remains ; men and cattle both die in numbers. Mir Khan and Achim Singh have both have been sent for by Holkar ; it will be seen what happens after their arrival.

**No. 194**—Collins forwards letters from Sindhia and Bhonsla to the Governor General and points out that the two Princes clearly express their desire not to disturb the stipulations contained in the Treaty of Bassein.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Jamner, 9th July 1803.*

I do myself the honour to forward two letters to Your Excellency's address from Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghujii Bhonsla, the Berar Raja.

Your Excellency will perceive that both Sindhia and the Bhonsla declare, "they will never manifest any intention of disturbing the stipulations of the treaty of nineteen articles concluded at Bassein, between the British Government and Rao Pandit Pradhan, provided that the British Government and Rao Pandit Pradhan will never disturb the conditions of the treaty, subsisting from remote times, between Rao Pandit Pradhan's Government and Raghujii Bhonsla, Daulat Rao Sindhia and the other Sardars of the Maratha empire."

In consequence of the foregoing declaration, I sent Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan to Raghujii Bhonsla, to request he would favour me with

a copy of the treaty referred to by him in his letter to Your Lordship ; the Bhonsla said he had left it behind, with other papers, at Nagpur. Mirza Bakar, conformably to my instructions, then asked, whether that treaty contained any stipulation incompatible with the engagements concluded at Bassein between the British Government and His Highness the Peshwa. Raja Raghuji replied, that his treaty contained no stipulation incompatible with, or prejudicial to, those engagements. I did not receive Sindhia's letter to Your Excellency, nor a copy of it, until this morning.

#### No. 194A—Enclosure.

In this letter addressed to the Governor General, Bhonsla deprecates the delay in acquainting him with the terms of the Treaty of Bassein, and expresses a hope that its terms will not be used to subvert those of an already existing treaty between the Peshwa, Sindhia, himself and other Maratha Chiefs.

*7th July 1803. Received 31st July 1803.*

I have received Your Lordship's four friendly letters in succession, notifying the conclusion of new engagements between His Highness the Peshwa and the English Company, at Bassein, together with copies of the treaty, and I have been fully apprized of every word of its contents, which have also been fully communicated to me by Colonel Collins, who is with Daulat Rao Sindhia on Your Lordship's part.

By the favour of God ! since the first establishment of mutual union, the degrees of concordance and attachment have so increased, that to this time no interruption or derangement of them has occurred, nor is it in contemplation on this side to interrupt or derange them. Whereas, since a long period of time, the integrity of the Raj (meaning the whole Maratha State) and the identity of the affairs and concerns of the state and government have been such, that if any momentous affair, or political object arising out of the circumstances of the time occurred, the arrangement of it depended on mutual concert and communication; yet notwithstanding this, the engagements which have lately been concluded between that quarter (British Government) and the Peshwa have (only) now been communicated; and, on the part of the Peshwa, to this time of writing, nothing: therefore it has now been determined with Daulat Rao Sindhia, in presence of Colonel Collins, that confidential persons on my part, and Daulat Rao Sindhia, be despatched to the Peshwa for the purpose of ascertaining the circumstances of the (said) engagements. At the same time, no intention whatever is entertained on my part to subvert the stipulations of the treaty, consisting of 19 articles, which has been concluded at Bassein between the British Government and the Peshwa, on condition that there be no design whatever on the part of the English Company and the Peshwa to subvert the stipulations

of the treaty, which since a long period of time, has been concluded between the Peshwa's Sarkar, me, and the said Daulat Rao Sindhia, and the Maratha Chiefs.

Further particulars will be communicated by the letters of Colonel Collins. Let the receipt of friendly letters continue to be the means of gratification to me !

**No. 194B—Enclosure.**

In this letter addressed to the Governor General, Daulat Rao Sindhia deprecates the delay in acquainting him with the terms of the Treaty of Bassein and expresses a hope that its terms will not be used to subvert those of an already existing treaty between the Peshwa, Bhonsla, himself and other Maratha Chiefs.

*8th July 1803. Received on 31st July 1803.*

I have received Your Lordship's friendly letter, testifying the conclusion of new engagements between His Highness the Peshwa and the English Company, at Bassein, together with a copy of the treaty ; and I have been fully apprized of every word of its contents, which have also been fully communicated to me by Colonel Collins.

Whereas the engagements subsisting between the Peshwa and me are such, that the adjustment of all affairs, and of the concerns of his state and government, should be arranged and completed with my advice and participation. By the favour of God ! through a regard to what is above stated, the degrees of mutual concord have so increased, that to this time no interruption or derangement of them has occurred on either side. Notwithstanding this, the engagements which have lately been concluded between that quarter (British Government) and the Peshwa, have (only) now been communicated ; and, on the part of the Peshwa, to this time of writing, nothing. Therefore, it has now been determined with Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, in presence of Colonel Collins, that confidential persons on my part, and the Raja, be despatched to the Peshwa, for the purpose of ascertaining the circumstances of the (said) engagements. At the same time, no intention whatever is entertained on my part to subvert the stipulations of the treaty, consisting of 19 articles, which has been concluded at Bassein between the British Government and the Peshwa, on condition that there be no design whatever on the part of the English Company and the Peshwa to subvert the stipulations of the treaty, which since a long period of time, has been concluded between the Peshwa's Sarkar, me, and the said Raja, and the Maratha Chiefs.

Further particulars will be communicated by the letters of Colonel Collins. Let the receipt of friendly letter continue to be the means of gratification to me !

**No. 195**—Collins informs Close that though the two Maratha Princes give solemn assurances of not having any hostile designs against the British or their allies, they refuse to return to their usual stations as was required by him. He, therefore, asks Close whether he should remain satisfied with the assurances given or he should ask for some other unequivocal proof of their sincerity.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Jamner, 9th July 1803.*

I have the honour to enclose copies of letters addressed to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General by Raghuji Bhonsla, Raja of Berar, and by Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia.

You have been already furnished with a transcript of my address to His Excellency, under date the 6th instant, and it will appear as well from the contents thereof as from the inclosed letters, that these Chieftains have avowed they have no other intention than to preserve and maintain the relations of friendship which have so long subsisted between their Sarkars and the British Government ; that they have no design to obstruct the arrangements concluded at Bassein ; and lastly, that they will not ascend the Ajanta Ghat, nor march to Poona ; on the other hand you will perceive, that Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla have refused to acquiesce in my proposal, that the former should recross the Narbada with his army, and the latter return to Nagpur. Nor did these Chiefs assign any reason for their refusal on the occasion, although I particularly pointed out to them, that their continuance in this quarter afforded just grounds to doubt the sincerity of their profession, since, if their designs were friendly as they asserted, there could be no just case for their remaining with their forces so near the frontier of our ally the Nizam, now that the Maharaja had accommodated all differences with Jaswant Rao Holkar. But these observations, as well as others equally forcible, were only answered by solemn assurances that those Chieftains entertained no hostile designs against His Highness the Nizam ; in short, combining all that passed in my conference with Sindhia and the Bhonsla, on the 4th instant, with the information I have received respecting their negotiations with Jaswant Rao Holkar, I am surely persuaded that they will not retire with their armies until they have had an interview with the latter Chieftain.

Last night I was assured by an intelligent person, that the Berar Raja had obtained the consent of the Maharaja to send off the boy Khande Rao to Holkar, either this day or to-morrow ; and should that measure actually be adopted, I have not the least doubt but that Jaswant Rao Holkar will shortly form a junction with Raghuji Bhonsla and Daulat Rao Sindhia.



It is, however, by no means impossible but that these Chieftains may have determined on this interview for the purpose of effecting a solid and permanent accommodation between Sindhia and Holkar, previously to the return of Raghuji Bhonsla to his capital: and indeed, many of the people whom I employ to obtain intelligence have assured me, that this is the real intent of the proposed meeting. Moreover, as to Sindhia and the Bhonsla Raja, it might be unreasonable to suspect that they meditate hostilities against the British Government or its allies, from the recent assurances which they have given in writing to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General; nevertheless, I must confess I do not wish to rely implicitly on their faith, but would infinitely rather obtain some proof of their friendly disposition, more unequivocal than professions and promises. But as none of that nature occurs to me, I must beg leave to request your opinion, whether the friendly assurances which Sindhia has lately pledged to His Excellency should be regarded as satisfactory; or whether you can suggest any other proof of their sincerity that would, in your judgment, be less equivocal?

In determining these questions, you will have the goodness to bear in mind that I have already apprized Sindhia of the danger he will incur by a longer continuance in the Deccan, and that I have even gone so far as to assure the Maharaja, I could not be responsible that his own territory would not be attacked, if he did not immediately return to his possessions in Hindustan.

I shall transmit a copy of this letter to the honourable Major-General Wellesley, with a view of obtaining the benefit of his opinion on this important subject. It is also my intention to forward a transcript of this address to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

**No. 196**—Close describes the attitude of Sindhia and discusses the possible reasons for his efforts to gain time. Close further points out to General Wellesley that an immediate attack on Ahmadnagar and Broach would prove most effective, and goes on to suggest that an ultimatum be served on Sindhia and Bhonsla to retire from their menacing position, and if it was not complied with the British army might begin the offensive.

FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY.

*Poona, 10th July 1803.*

Under the instructions which some time since I had the honour to receive from His Excellency the most noble the Governor General

I conceive it to be my duty at this juncture to submit my sentiments to you on the following points connected with the cause of your future operations.

When I reflect on the systematic cause of deceit and treachery pursued by Daulat Rao Sindhia from the period that he put his troops in motion in consequence of the defeat which his army sustained, in this neighbourhood from Jaswant Rao Holkar, I cannot flatter myself that the pacific, liberal and candid mode of proceeding adopted and still persevered in by His Excellency the Governor General to impress Sindhia with a just sense of his interests and dissuade him from his present adverse and arbitrary course, will be attended with the desired effect. Instead of hearkening to His Excellency's amicable explanations tending to assure him of the fair and honourable intentions of the British Government towards his state, instead of attending to the nature of the Treaty of Basscin which goes to see his interests as well as those of all the Maratha Chieftains, instead of listening to His Excellency's dissuasions against the adoption or pursuit of measures on his part for the purpose of uniting an hostile confederacy against the British Government and its allies, instead of complying with His Excellency's recommendation that he should recross the Narbada, Sindhia has not only declined giving any satisfactory reply to the earnest exhortations from His Excellency, but obstinately acted in direct contradiction to them. Instead of retiring towards the Narbada he has advanced towards Aurangabad with the intention as set forth by his minister in his presence, of marching to Poona, and instead of relaxing from his endeavours to effect his scheme of the hostile confederacy his efforts for the accomplishment of that point are daily, if possible, more anxiously applied. Adverting to the general tenor of Sindhia's conduct and to the latest advices from the British Resident at his Durbar, I cannot but be decidedly impressed that Sindhia's main view in all his evasions and falsehoods is to gain time in order to have the means of commencing hostilities under circumstances more favourable than he could possibly do at present. By his present position and since the rivers have swelled, he is cut off from his two valuable southern possessions, Broach and Ahmednagar. We have the means of promptly attacking the places with a fair prospect of success, and until this fall of the rivers it is not possible that he could take any effectual measures for their reliefs; deprived of those places he would be cut off from the sea, and deprived of the only post that could sustain his operations under any plan for dislodging us from Poona. These places, however, saved to him till the fall of the rivers he might pursue measures for their future security. His cavalry could spread upon our most valuable lines of communication and could he once form in force upon Ahmednagar, our position at Poona might be in danger.

Another cause for delay on his part is that his darling scheme of the confederacy is not brought to maturity; time is yet required to bring

it to a cemented harmonious state for hostile service. But although Sindhia's principal view is obviously to gain time in reference to the considerations before stated, his anxiety about Broach especially Ahmadnagar, urges him forward towards the Nizam's frontier,—under the aim that if he succeeded in gaining time till his plans are matured, he may be nearer to his object of relieving Ahmadnagar and finally forming in force on that post.

In advancing to the Ajanta pass, Sindhia has said that he will halt a few days at the foot of it and that he will not ascend it immediately. This is wholly consistent with his plan of gaining time and improving his position ; were he to ascend abruptly we might take alarm and oppose him before his time. He will, therefore, gradually creep in upon the Nizam's frontier, and should he at last be obliged to break before he is entirely prepared, he will always have gained something.

Such being his views and mode of proceeding I am decidedly of opinion that a due regard to His Excellency's instructions and common attention to the security of the British interests and those of the British allies, should not permit us to allow Sindhia to work out his wily and hostile schemes to the imminent danger of our Indian possessions.

It is not impossible but you may be able to send some little reinforcement to Colonel Stevenson's army ; but without such support, I conceive, that the combined force at present under that officer is sufficient to meet Sindhia's and Bhonsla's army with good effect, particularly if it occupies a position that will enable it to engage the enemy before they can have time to draw out their whole force on this side of the Ajanta pass.

Under this impression my opinion is that as you are now prepared and conveniently situated for eventually laying siege to Ahmednagar, you ought to dispatch a letter to Colonel Collins informing him of this circumstance and entreating him to apprise Sindhia, that if he advanced a single kos nearer to the Nizam's territory, Colonel Stevenson will act on the offensive and his fort of Ahmednagar be immediately besieged, and that besides he must expect to be exposed to such other operations from the British Government as circumstances may permit. Such a communication to Sindhia would probably prevent his advancing further towards the Nizam's frontier. But as his remaining for any time in his present menacing position for the purpose of completing his hostile plan of the confederacy would place the British interests in great hazard and keep the British Government subject to the expense of war without being in the way of benefiting by its advantages, I am of opinion that you ought further to fix a period, at the lapse of which Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla should be required to commence retiring separately towards their respective

dominions. The length of this period should be regulated in reference to the present state of your preparations and projects. Having fixed the time and given intimation thereof to Colonel Collins, and the Colonel having intimated the same to Sindhia and Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, should these Chieftains comply by retiring at the time prescribed, you would naturally withdraw from (Ahmad)nagar, but should they refrain to move at the time prescribed, your operations against that post as well as offensive operations on the part of Colonel Stevenson should immediately commence. This outline would prevent the success of your plan against (Ahmed)nagar being endangered by the immediate advance of Sindhia, and at the same time do all that is apparently practicable to induce Sindhia to abandon his unprovoked and hostile schemes without running into the extreme of actual war.

It has been insinuated by Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla that they have some propositions to communicate for the information of His Excellency. That circumstance, however, should not be allowed to prevent the retreat of those Chieftains at the time presented. Their proposals may be communicated as early from Ujjain and Nagpur as from their present menacing position, nor do I conceive that the foregoing suggestions are affected by His Excellency's last instructions to Colonel Collins. If Sindhia even complied with His Excellency's requisitions it is still necessary that he and Raghuji Bhonsla should retreat within prescribed time.

I have to offer you many apologies, sir, as the nature of the subject has drawn me into the consideration of points connected with the operations of troops. My view in addressing you is merely to acquit myself of a sort of charge vested in me by His Excellency's instructions and to indulge in a flattering idea that under the habits of communication and intimacy which have so long prevailed between us, my sentiments on the foregoing subject would not be unacceptable to you.

**No. 197**—Khande Rao Holkar was handed over to Jaswant Rao Holkar's agents, and arrangements to restore Holkar's territories in Hindustan were being made.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 10th July 1803.*

Since I had the honor to address Your Excellency yesterday forenoon, Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla have marched eight miles.

Their present encampment at which I arrived early this morning, is nearly about the same distance from the Ajanta Ghat, as the ground which they last quitted. I therefore conclude that those Chieftains made this movement in order to procure forage. Indeed their forces cannot remain long stationary in any place, on account of the great scarcity of that article at this season of the year.

Vitthoji Ingle, and Shyam Rao, the agents of Jaswant Rao Holkar at this Court, took charge of the boy Khande Rao yesterday afternoon, and immediately proceeded with him towards the camp of Holkar, accompanied by a *karkoon*, named Rajaram, in the employ of the Berar Raja.

It is reported at this Durbar that Sadashiv Rao will, shortly, be deputed to Hindustan in the capacity of *Naib*, on the part of Daulat Rao Sindhia, with instructions to deliver over the whole of the territory appertaining to the Holkar family to Jaswant Rao. At present the agents of the latter Chieftain only possess the cities of Maheshwar and Indore, and their dependencies.

Eight battalions of sepoys, in the service of Ambaji Ingle, marched from the Deccan, towards Hindustan, some days ago. This force which is commanded by a Mr. James Shepherd will, it is supposed, be stationed between Jhansi and Kalpi.

**No. 198**—The letter of the Governor General addressed to Sindhia creates a favourable impression on the latter.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVT.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 11th July 1803.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your address of the 3rd ultimo accompanied by a letter from His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to Daulat Rao Sindhia, with copies in English and Persian.

Your despatch reached me late in the evening of the 9th instant, and on the morning of the following day, my Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan waited on the Maharaja with His Excellency's letter, as indisposition prevented me from repairing to the Durbar to deliver it in person.

The principal ministers of Daulat Rao Sindhia were present when His Excellency's letter was delivered. It was first read and explained to the Maharaja by Mirza Bakar Khan, and afterwards by the Munshi

belonging to the Durbar ; a conversation on the subject of it then ensued between Sindhia and his ministers, from which my Munshi reports, it was evident His Excellency's letter proved both pleasing and satisfactory to the Maharaja.

Mirza Bakar Khan by my desire acquainted Daulat Rao Sindhia of the cause of my absence on this occasion, and that I would wait on him at a future day to converse on the contents of His Lordship's letter after the Maharaja should have more maturely considered the whole scope and subject of it.

**No. 199**—Collins acquaints Edmonstone with the movements of Sindhia's forces in the north, and promises to address a remonstrance to Sindhia for Ambaji's letters to the chiefs of Bundelkhand.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVT.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 12th July 1803.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo together with a copy of a private despatch to your address from Mr. Ahmuty, Collector of Allahabad, under date the 7th of the same month.

As I have reason to believe that Ambaji Ingle did write to the chiefs of Bundelkhand to the effect particularized in the third paragraph of your letter and am of opinion likewise that Dharam Rao Pandit did receive instructions to attack the possessions of the Hon'ble Company to the north-west in the event of hostilities between Sindhia and the English, I shall not lose a moment of time in addressing a serious remonstrance to the Maharaja conformably with the terms prescribed to me by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General as communicated in your letter.

The intended march of a further body of ten thousand Pindaris quoted in the conclusion of the 3rd paragraph of your letter, has not yet taken place ; but a strong detachment of infantry belonging to Ambaji Ingle lately moved from this quarter in the direction of Kalpi under the command of a Mr. Shepherd, of which occurrence I have already duly apprized His Excellency.

Daulat Rao Sindhia has informed Colonel Dudrenec and Major Brownrigg that they are to march with their respective Brigades in six or seven days towards Jodhpur and Jaipur.

**No. 200**—Collins calls upon Sindhia to disavow the letters sent to the Bundelkhand Chiefs and to explain the object of the detachment stationed on the north-western frontier of the territories of the Company.

*Memorial addressed to Sindhia on 12th July 1803, by Colonel Collins, presented and read to Sindhia on 14th July by Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan.*

In obedience to the orders of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, Colonel Collins apprizes Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia that His Excellency has received the following information from respectable authority.

That Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia had addressed letters to Raja Himmat Bahadur, and Ghani Bahadur, in which he (the Maharaja) distinctly avows the formation of a confederacy between him, the Raja of Berar, and Jaswant Rao Holkar, for purposes hostile to the British Government, and directs Himmat Bahadur, and Ghani Bahadur, to be prepared to co-operate with the confederated armies in offensive measures against the British possessions, grounding the requisition on the alleged pretence that the English, actuated by motives of ambition, meditated the ruin of all the Maratha Chieftains. That these letters also noticed the approach of a considerable body of Pindaris under the command of Dharam Rao Pandit, detached by the Maharaja for the express purpose of ravaging the Company's territories.

His Excellency the most noble the Governor General has ordered Colonel Collins to represent to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia that His Excellency entertains too great an esteem for the character of the Maharaja to believe that these letters to the Bundelkhand Chiefs were written either with his sanction, or knowledge, a proceeding of that nature being contrary to every principle of good faith, and public honor, in as much as the Treaty of Bassein, and the consequent restoration of His Highness the Peshwa to the *masnad* of Poona, from which a pretext is formed to colour the foul aspersions against the British faith contained in those letters, were measures not only just and honorable in every view, but also manifestly necessary for the preservation of the power of the Maharaja. Moreover, that the adoption of those measures had been originally solicited by Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, and had subsequently obtained his express concurrence and approbation. That the Maharaja had likewise avowed to Colonel Collins on the 29th of Zilqad (24th March) his intention to maintain the relations of friendship and harmony with the British Government, and at the same time declared his resolution to abstain from any opposition to the completion of the engagements concluded at Bassein. That under these circumstances the hostile designs which are expressly stated in the

letters to Himmat Bahadur, and to Ghani Bahadur, are aggravated by deceit and falsehood, and that the imputation of designs on the part of the British Government, repugnant to every principle of good faith, and public honor, is an insult to the British name. His Excellency the most noble the Governor General is, therefore, altogether averse to believe that these letters were written to the Bundelkhand Chiefs either with the consent or knowledge of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, more particularly as Himmat Bahadur and Ghani Bahadur are exclusively the subjects of His Highness the Peshwa, and consequently that the transmission of any orders to those chieftains by the Maharaja would be an assumption of authority utterly unwarranted. But although, from the foregoing considerations His Excellency the most noble the Governor General supposes that the unjustifiable transactions above related were by no means authorised by Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, yet as these transactions have been publicly ascribed to the Maharaja, His Excellency has enjoined Colonel Collins to call upon Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to disavow the transmission of any such orders, on his part, to Himmat Bahadur and to Ghani Bahadur, and it being evident that some evil-designed person at this Durbar . . . has excited the Chiefs of Bundelkhand to hostilities against the British Government. The most noble the Governor General expects that Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia will countermand those orders without delay. His Lordship has, likewise, instructed the Colonel to demand of the Maharaja a satisfactory explanation of the objects of the detachment, under the command of Dharam Rao Pandit, and now stationed on the north-western frontier of the honourable Company's territories.

**No. 201**—This important memorandum gives in detail a statement of the settlement arrived at in the quarrel between Holkar and Sindhia through the mediation of Bhonsla of Nagpur. Matters requiring immediate execution having been attended to, others remain to be settled according to former usage. Holkar's demands in respect of the same are being put forth for an early settlement.

*Early July, 1803.*

In this paper Jadu Rao has arranged Holkar's demands in order with an answer on the part of Sindhia below each.

*Memorandum of negotiations on the subject of Holkar's demands on Daulat Rao Sindhia for a partition, etc., drawn out by Jadu Rao Bhaskar at Nagpur.*



Jaswant Rao Holkar having discussed and understood the different articles, sent a memorandum of 10 articles about a partition of one crore, 60 lakhs and 78 thousand and 341 rupees 2 and a half annas and of certain countries. The articles which were first drawn out at Nagpur being compared with the 10 articles which were sent by Holkar, those which remain, are to be added to the latter and sent for approval in order that there may be no difference and that all may unite for one purpose. With this view it is right to avoid all disputes; unanimity will be advantageous to the state of Pandit Pradhan. Both parties having agreed, and Raja Raghoji Bhonslah Sena Saheb Subah being the mediator, the following articles are agreed on :—

[1]. Khande Rao Holkar and his followers to be given up.

Khande Rao Holkar and his followers have been made over to Sena Saheb Subah, who will give them up. I and Sena Saheb Subah having consulted will speak to the Peshwa and procure for Khande Rao *khilat* of investiture as Chief.

[2]. In *Desh* and Malwa and Hindustan, countries have been seized, these countries to be given up and the revenue which has been collected from them to be restored.

*Choor Chitthis* or orders for giving up the countries have been delivered to Sena Saheb Subah—he will give them to you. Losses have been sustained by both parties, nothing, therefore, is to be said about what has been collected.

[3]. Kashi Rao Holkar to be delivered up and whatever writings you may have taken from him to be returned.

When Holkar comes himself or sends a Chief with an army, Kashi Rao Holkar shall be made over to Sena Saheb Subah. I have not a single writing of Kashi Rao's. So it is.

[4]. In the time of Subahdar Saheb and Ranoji Bawa Sindhia, a partition was made of the countries of the yearly tribute of the Rajwada Rajas; this partition to be now in force. No countenance or protection to be given to anybody but everything to go on as formerly.

Every thing to be carried on according to former usage. There will be no difference on this point. Both parties to abide by this rule. No countenance or protection to be given to anybody. So it is.

[5]. *Khalsa* lands have been taken from the King and Rs. 42,61,587-7-3 are allowed for the expenses of His Majesty. Let me have my share of the lands and I will pay my share of the King's expenses. So let it be.

It has been settled by means of Sena Saheb Subah that a share of those countries shall be given after consultation; whatever may remain when the expenses are deducted shall be equally divided between us. This

business depends on Shrimant. When he has spoken to us and made a settlement and sent some person to defray the expenses, and that person has been paid as you and I may determine, whatever remains shall be divided according to former rules.

[6]. At Muttra, lands including *inams*, Gadh Mukteshwar, and Hapur and Khurja etc., were given [to] me. I have not possession of them. *Khalsa* and *jaidad* lands are to be divided. Let my share be given to me.

At Muttra a division was made in the time of the late Mahadji Sindhia and Gadh Mukteshwar and Hapar and Khurja, etc., were given and you are not in possession of them. The agreement of our ancestors cannot be violated. This being understood has been acknowledged.

The *jaidad* countries are in possession of the persons who have *jaidad*. You and I must enquire about this, [as to] who are useful, to whom countries are to be assigned; they who should be continued in their possessions are to be continued, the rest of the countries and those of the *khalsa* shall be divided and former usages shall be observed. No dispute shall be raised on either side. Your *inam* lands and all the King's expenses have been allowed by this. I have no *inam*, let me have *inam*. This being understood, has been settled by means of Sena Saheb Subah. The countries shall be divided according to usage.

[7]. The Rohilla country [the country of Zabita Khan?], whose yearly revenue is Rs. 11,23,782-13½ annas, has not been divided; let it be divided.

This country has remained undivided. It is agreed through Sena Saheb Subah that it shall be divided. After consultation there shall be no misunderstanding about the share of that country.

[8]. It will be well if countries to the amount of Rs. 11,06,039 remain as the Peshwa's share, otherwise they are to be divided.

This article concerns the Peshwa; the settlement of this must be made by you and me. After consultation we must determine what is to be given to the Peshwa by the mediation of Sena Saheb Subah.

[9]. The amount of *jaidad* assigned to different persons is stated at Rs. 71,05,432-1½ annas. Of this sum part is actually in *jaidad* and part not. Let me have my share of that which is not in *jaidad*, and let the services of those persons who have *jaidad* be for us both.

This article concerns the persons who have *jaidad*; this must be considered. We must ascertain, who are useful, and who should be continued, and having determined this point, these persons shall serve us both. Where there are no persons who have *jaidad*, the country shall be divided between us.

[10]. Besides the countries to be divided other countries are allotted to for the share of Shrimant, amounting to Rs. 11,48,350-10 annas. I agree

that these countries shall remain to Shrimant. But if they do not remain to the Peshwa let me share in them.

This article concerns Shrimant ; after consultation the countries shall be given as you and I by the mediation of Sena Saheb Subah may determine.

[11]. Let me share in any other countries the amount of which may have been concealed.

This must be ascertained ; if besides the countries above-mentioned there are any others the amount of which has been concealed they shall be divided between us according to former usage. There shall be no difference about this.

[12]. Whatever countries of Shrimant are not restored (?) are to be seized, with the consent of both of us.

Shrimant's countries shall be restored ; neither you nor I have anything to say to Shrimant's countries. Whatever I may take hereafter you shall share in, and I will share in whatever you may take.

[13]. Let the affairs at Delhi be conducted by both of us.

After consultation when we shall have shared equally no differences will arise about the affairs of Delhi, but Shrimant is the master of the cultivated lands ; when he shall have sent some person to settle matter no differences will arise between us. If he should not send a person nor settle matters, the arrangement between you and me will remain.

[14]. The amount of the countries to be divided has been stated in the memorandum. Let that amount be exactly ascertained and let the division be made accordingly.

The total amount has been written according to your statement, but the exact amount must be ascertained by a reference to documents, after which it shall be divided. The articles being settled no difference whatever shall arise. Sena Saheb Subah is the mediator. The amount of the countries being ascertained shall be divided accordingly.

Fourteen articles have been settled by means of Sena Saheb Subah. Those points which required immediate execution have been executed. The others are agreed to, but they are to be settled according to former usage, in case obstacles arise from certain countries being in the possession of my Chiefs. The immediate settlement of this would occasion internal dissensions. No hasty offence is to be taken on this account. Policy and the Hindu faith are to be attended to. After consultation whatever may be determined shall be settled. It was agreed to through the mediation of Sena Saheb Subah, no difference shall arise. You will not raise any difference, nor will I. Be satisfied of this. You and I are to act agreeably to the order.

**No. 202**—This news-letter describes the efforts that were being made by Sindhia and Bhonsla to arrive at a settlement with Holkar.

*Translation of a Letter from a News-writer in Holkar's camp ; dated  
12th July 1803.*

Khande Rao Holkar is arrived here ; he is accompanied by Shridhar Bapu and Kashiba, with 4,000 of Raghuji Bhonsla's horse. Great rejoicings have taken place here in consequence of the above event ; salutes have been fired throughout the encampment, and the boy has been introduced to all the Sardars with great form and solemnity. Raghuji's ministers above-mentioned have brought from Sindhia, and presented to Jaswant Rao Holkar, an order of delivery for all Holkar's territory. On presenting this document to Holkar, they urged him earnestly to proceed towards Sindhia's encampment in order to meet and confer with that Chieftain and Raghuji Bhonsla on the present state of Maratha affairs. They have also explained to him the necessity of a good understanding being now established between his Sarkar and Sindhia's in order that their respective territories may benefit by tranquillity, and become populous and abundant. It is imagined here by some, that Jaswant Rao Holkar will proceed in a few days towards Sindhia's camp for the purpose desired by Raghuji's ministers, while others report that he has already dispatched three or four *karkuns* to adjust matters respecting Holkar's territories, and that it is his intention to proceed direct with Khande Rao Holkar to place him on the *masnad* at Maheshwar, in order that the affairs of the government may be speedily settled. Raghuji's ministers have also recommended to Jaswant Rao Holkar not to harbour any enmity towards Kashi Rao Holkar.

**No. 203**—The Governor General generally approves of the means suggested by Major Frith to recall all British subjects, European or native, then in the Maratha service, and issues definite instructions on the subject. Copies of the Major's letter and drafts of the proposed proclamations are forwarded to the Commander-in-chief, who is empowered to issue the proclamations and take necessary steps to achieve the aim.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVT.,

TO—CAPTAIN LAKE, SECRETARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

*Fort William, 13th July 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General in Council to transmit to you, for the information of His

Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the inclosed copy of a letter from Major R. Frith, of the native cavalry, dated the 21st ultimo, on the subject of recalling all British subjects, European or native, at present in the Maratha service, and on the means of employing such of them as may be desirous of entering into the service of government.

His Excellency further commands me to communicate to you, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief, the following remarks which occur to His Excellency on the plan proposed by Major Frith, and subject to which, His Excellency is of opinion, [it] may be carried into effect with much advantage to government.

His Excellency-in-Council approves the proclamation proposed to be issued, recalling all British subjects, European or native, from the service of the Marathas, and directs me to transmit to you the inclosed proclamations to this purport, copies of which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is authorised to issue, properly countersigned, at whatever period it may appear to His Excellency most likely to be attended with the desired consequence of withdrawing from the service of Sindhia, the officers and sepoy now under the command of Monsieur Perron. His Excellency conceives the state of affairs with Sindhia to be now such as would justify the immediate publication of the proclamation, and therefore authorizes the Commander-in-Chief to issue it as soon as he may deem advisable.

The Governor General-in-Council does not deem it advisable that the sepoy who may withdraw from Sindhia's service, should remain embodied under their own officers, as suggested by Major Frith. The general orders of yesterday and of this date, authorizing the levy of men to augment the sepoy battalions to the war establishment, and the addition of a new regiment of sepoy will afford His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the most ample means of giving immediate employment to such sepoy as may be inclined to withdraw from Sindhia's service in conformity to the proclamation; and it is the wish of the Governor General-in-Council, that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief should be particularly attentive to the political importance of this circumstance in the levies now ordered.

The commissioned officers, whether British subjects or foreigners, who may wish to retire from the service of Sindhia, instead of being called upon to serve with the sepoy who may withdraw in conformity to the proclamation, may be allowed a subsistence from government equal in amount to the actual pay which they received in the service of Sindhia. This subsistence to be paid in Lucknow rupees, and continued until an opportunity may occur of employing them in the service of the allies or tributaries of the British Government, or of sending such of them as

may be inclined, to Europe upon the same terms as engaged for with the French officers formerly in the service of the Nizam at Hyderabad.

To enable the Commander-in-Chief to carry into effect the above plan for dissolving the force at present with Monsieur Perron, His Excellency-in-Council deems it advisable, that at the time when the above proclamations are published, a receiving officer or receiving officers should be stationed at such places as His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may think best suited, to effect the desired object under the following instructions.

1st. To receive all native commissioned and non-commissioned officers and sepoys, who may afford satisfactory proof of their having left the regular infantry battalions in the service of Sindhia, duly registering their names, age, height, and length of the service, copy of which register he will transmit to the Commander-in-Chief at such intervals as His Excellency may order.

2nd. That the receiving officers be authorized to disburse to the native commissioned and non-commissioned officers and sepoys thus received, pay at the rate recommended by Major Frith, until such time as they may be entertained in a regular crops.

3rd. That he also disburses to such European officers as may repair to his station from the service of Sindhia the actual amount of pay which they may have received whilst in Sindhia's service, until he may receive the orders of the Commander-in-Chief in regard to their destinations.

4th. That after the period of three months, limited by the proclamation for the withdrawing of British subjects from the Maratha service, the remaining men under the charge of the receiving officers, who may not have been deemed fit for the regular service, may be discharged, after receiving a gratuity of three months pay in advance.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's attention is requested to the mode proposed by Major Frith in the sixth suggestion, for publishing as extensively as possible the contents of the proclamation. It would be proper to transmit a copy of it to Mr. Seton, and to require his assistance in circulating it to the utmost practicable extent.

P.S.—His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will observe, that the date of the inclosed proclamation, and the name of the place or places where the receiving officers are to be stationed, are left blank, and will be inserted by His Excellency previously to publication.

**No. 203A**—In this important letter, Major Frith suggests that to all the inhabitants of the Doab and Rohilkhand, and British, European or American subjects, who had taken service with Sindhia, special terms be offered and they be induced to come over and join the British army. He further submits proposals for achieving this aim.

**FROM—MAJOR R. FRITH,**

**TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

*Fatehgarh, 21st June 1803.*

I took the liberty of addressing you on the 29th ultimo, with a plan for drawing off from the Maratha service a body of cavalry, composed of our own subjects, which might be essentially useful in the event of a war, and being persuaded that every hint or suggestion which may tend to promote the security of our valuable possessions in this quarter will be favourably received, I now send you some particulars relating to the regular infantry in that service, which I hope may not prove unacceptable at this time. The regular infantry in the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, as well as of other inferior Maratha Chiefs, is almost entirely composed of the inhabitants of Oudh, the Doab, and Rohilkhand. At a moderate calculation, the proportion which these countries furnish may be reckoned at three-fourths, the remaining fourth are the inhabitants of Agra and Delhi (including that part of the Doab which belongs to the Marathas), for no Deccani or Maratha has yet been admitted into this corps. The European officers attached to this body of infantry are chiefly French and British subjects, but of the latter, many are what is termed half-caste, or of British fathers and Asiatic mothers. They, however, consider themselves subjects of Great Britain, between whom and the French and other European officers in that service, a strong jealousy subsists. The cause which has induced so great a number of our native subjects to enter into the Maratha service seems to merit inquiry, since the furnishing men to form and recruit the army of our natural enemy (as the Marathas may very justly be termed) serves to injure our possessions by decreasing the population, while it strengthens the power and force of our opponent, and increases the inhabitants of his country. That the rich and fertile countries watered by the Ganges have from time immemorial furnished recruits to the armies of the southern provinces of Hindustan, is a fact well known, and will not be denied, but whence this proceeded is no easy matter to determine; at the same time it is not improbable, that it arose in a great measure from the paucity of inhabitants at all times in

the Deccan, and the overflowing population on the banks of the Ganges ; for under these circumstances the country where the inhabitants were few would naturally attract the superfluous population which the want of employment would urge forth from the other where they were superabundant. But, however, this may have been in former times, the disparity in the number of inhabitants in Oudh, the Doab, and Rohilkhand, now compared with the population of Daulat Rao Sindhia's usurpations in the north of Hindustan, is not so great as to warrant a similar conclusion. Let us, therefore, examine if some other cause does not exist to produce the same effect.

The honourable Company's provinces, without doubts, are more populous now than at any former era of their history, and far exceed that of any other country of Hindustan ; and if we may judge from the vast swarms of healthy well-fed children which every village throughout our extensive possessions produces to the view of the passenger, we may conclude that the population is increasing rapidly. And yet it does not appear that any of the inhabitants of the Company's provinces migrate to the Deccan as formerly, or that any of them have lately entered into the Maratha service on this side of India. This fact is the highest and most honourable encomium which could be passed on the Company's Government, since it proves to conviction, that the inhabitants of the country under its influence are happy and satisfied, and enjoying in peace and security at home the fruits of their industry, have lost that restless, rambling, discontented disposition, which urged them forth in search of employment and a livelihood in former times. The happy effects resulting from the introduction of wise and equitable regulations begin already to be sensibly felt throughout the Doab and Rohilkhand. The protection and encouragement extended to the husbandmen and mechanics have considerably lessened the number of these two very useful classes of subjects, who were unemployed, by stimulating their industry, and enabling them to earn a comfortable subsistence at home for themselves and their families, without the necessity of resorting to another country in search of a precarious livelihood ; and the earnestness and activity with which these two classes now apply to their several occupations, promise an increase of prosperity equalling the most sanguine wishes of the beneficent and wise administration under whose authority so salutary a change has been effected. Nor is it less gratifying to reflect, that while our happy success and the increasing prosperity of our possessions excite the jealousy and envy of the Princes of Hindustan, the wisdom and justice of our laws and regulations are beheld by their subjects with the highest admiration, and calls forth their unbounded applause. Hence we may with confidence assert, that there is not now a country, from the Ganges to the river Indus, where the inhabitants are not desirous of being placed under a government, which extends to all its subjects a degree of security and happiness hitherto



unknown in the annals of the Asiatic world. The late Sindhia, commencing the conquest of the northern part of Hindustan about 20 years ago, discovered the indispensable necessity of forming an army of regular infantry, with suitable artillery, to complete these conquests, and unite them firmly to the Maratha Empire ; he accordingly began soon after to raise battalions of sepoys, and cast guns to form a regular train of field artillery, upon the same plan as the Company's corps ; but in the article of cannon, the French practice of giving five or six field-pieces to each battalion has been since adopted. Oudh, the Doab, and Rohilkhand, were at that time groaning under the oppressions of the late Nawab's *amils*, and full of disbanded sepoys, occasioned by the reduction of the army on the peace of 1782-3. The object of getting trained disciplined sepoys into Sindhia's service, at so critical a period was great, and the encouragement given to those out of employment was proportionate ; hence the corps were completed with uncommon facility. This cause, with the oppression of *amils*, the insecurity of property, and the consequent repression of industry, threw all unemployed in the military class, and [of] the oppressed zamindars and ryots into the arms of the Marathas, and laid the foundation of their present very numerous regular force. To the causes here assigned we may venture to attribute that so vast a number of the inhabitants of Oudh, the Doab, and Rohilkhand, have gone over and taken service with the Marathas ; but the influence of our government now extending over the Doab and Rohilkhand, and removing in a great measure those causes, we may hope that this drain on our population will gradually decline ; at the same time there is room for apprehension, while that corps exists, that the connection and communication kept up may still draw off some of our inhabitants ; its dissolution, therefore, appears to be necessary to effect a radical cure of the evil, since it would put an entire stop to the emigrations, by removing the only cause which now remains to support it. Under the present circumstances, a war with Daulat Rao Sindhia would reduce the British European officers in his pay to the distressing alternative of either serving against their country, or of relinquishing the only visible means they have of subsistence ; but, however, distressing the latter might be, there is no doubt that they would prefer it to the former, and as their situation in that event would really merit consideration, it is hoped that government would not be averse to the alleviation of their distress, by affording them a temporary employment during the war. Our native subjects in that service would also be reduced to a similar alternative, and it is submitted, whether it might not be good policy to offer them service in like manner. With a view to the desirable objects of extending relief to these two descriptions of our subjects, and of lopping off the vital root of an establishment pregnant

with the most serious danger to the British power in India, the following suggestions are submitted with due deference :—

(1) That a proclamation be issued, in the event of a war with Daulat Rao Sindhia, recalling all British and native subjects from the service of the Maratha states, and inviting them to enter into the honourable Company's service during the war, or as long as there may be employment for them, upon the same rank and pay as they respectively enjoyed in the Maratha Empire, on pain of being considered and treated as rebels if they bore arms against the Company's Government.

(2) That the native subjects quitting the Maratha service, and entering into the Company's, be formed into battalions of 1,000 rank and file each, and the European and native officers distributed among them according to rank and seniority.

(3) That when these corps may be disbanded, a gratuity of three or four months pay shall be made to each individual, over and above such pay as may be due, and that the European officers be entitled to all the privileges of a free merchant, with permission to reside and enter into any line of trade or business they think proper in any part of the Company's dominions.

(4) That the British and native subjects of our government serving with the Marathas in Hindustan, be allowed three months, and those in the Deccan six months to return within the Company's boundary ; and that a flag be erected at some central situation near the frontier (such as Shikohabad and Sikandra) for them to repair to, and where an officer of rank shall attend to receive, enrol, and form them into corps.

(5) That these corps shall not be employed against the Marathas during the war, unless they voluntarily offer their services for that purpose, but be sent by corps, as soon as formed, to some stations removed to a distance from the frontier ; and that all such privates as are fit for our regular corps, and are desirous to be entertained, shall be admitted either to fill up vacancies or as supernumeraries, provided the number is not very great.

(6) That copies of this proclamation, in Persian and Hindustani, be distributed by the judges, magistrates, and collectors, to the families of the people in the service of the Marathas, who are settled throughout the Doab and Rohilkhand, instructing them at the same time to have the information conveyed with secrecy and dispatch to their relations and friends in the service of the Marathas, earnestly exhorting them to return, and avoid the ill consequences to which they might otherwise be exposed.

It might be supposed that most, if not all, who consider themselves as British subjects, would immediately resign the Maratha service, and come in upon this call ; and from the present discontented and mutinous state of their regular sepoy corps, we have every reason to suppose that a vast number would take their discharge, and accompany them. How far this

defection might extend it is impossible at present to conjecture ; at the same time there is no doubt that a sufficient number would come away to cause a degree of distrust and suspicion in their army, which would paralyze all its exertions, and render it utterly incapable of acting with vigour and decision ; while at the same time every endeavour to avert the consequences of this measure would only tend to increase the embarrassment, and accelerate the dissolution of their regular establishment. The annexed table of the establishment and pay of the regular battalions in the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia shows the footing his corps are on at the present time. Formerly the privates received six rupees per month in Hindustan and in the Deccan ; but since the great increase of the regular brigades has taken place, the pay of the privates has been reduced to five and a half per month, and of the native officers in proportion ; and they are paid in a new coinage, of which the value of the rupee is only 14 annas of our currency ; the whole reduction, therefore, of a private's pay is nearly one rupee per month in Hindustan, and one rupee and a half in the Deccan. This measure has of course given very general disgust and dissatisfaction, in so much that a brigade stationed in the Mehrval country, which was some time ago ordered to march and reinforce the army in the Deccan, mutinied, and absolutely refused to leave Hindustan on any terms. Paying the troops which come over to us in Lucknow rupees, they will gain on the present receipts about 14 per cent. and that will be another strong inducement to quit a service in which there is nothing permanent and nothing certain.

An ardent wish to render useful the little information which it has been my lot to collect during a long residence in this quarter of India, has induced me to intrude the foregoing particulars on your notice ; and should they contain any hints or suggestions which may tend to promote the success of our arms in the event of a war, or add to the security of our possession, I shall feel greatly gratified, and hope you will not deem them altogether undeserving of being communicated to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

**No. 203B.**—Proclamation by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General in Council.

Whereas the Governor General-in-Council has deemed to be necessary to provide effectual security for the defence of the British possessions against the designs of Daulat Rao Sindhia :—

All British subjects holding employment in the military service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, or of any Maratha Chieftains confederated with Daulat Rao Sindhia, are hereby required to relinquish the service of those Chiefs, respectively, within the period of three months from the date of this proclamation, and to repair to the headquarters of the British

army, or to where a British officer is stationed for the express purpose of receiving all such British subjects as shall retire from the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, or of his allies, in obedience to this proclamation : and the Governor General-in-Council is hereby further pleased to declare, that all British subjects, who shall retire from the service of the Marathas and shall obey this proclamation, shall receive from the honourable Company a provision equal to the amount of the fixed pay and allowances which they now receive from Daulat Rao Sindhia, or from any of his allies, during the continuance of hostilities, or so long as such British subjects shall be employed in the service of the honourable Company ; and all such British subjects, after having quitted the service of the honourable Company, shall receive every indulgence which their respective situations may appear to require, and which may be consistent with the principles and regulations of the British Government. And the Governor General-in-Council further declares, that all British subjects in the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, or of his allies, who shall bear arms against the British Government in contempt of this proclamation, shall be considered to have forfeited their rights to the protection of the British Government, and shall be treated accordingly if found in arms against the authority of the Governor General-in-Council.

The subjects of France, or of any other foreign European or American State, holding employments in the military service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, or of his allies, who may be disposed to relinquish the service of the Marathas, and to repair to the headquarters of the British army, or to [ \* \* \* ] shall be admitted to the benefits extended by this proclamation to all British subjects.

**No. 203C**—Proclamation by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General-in-Council.

It is hereby signified to all non-commissioned officers and sepoy, formerly in the service of the honourable Company, and other persons natives of the British territories in India, holding employment in the military service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, or of any Maratha Chiefs confederated with Daulat Rao Sindhia, that they are required to quit the service of those Chieftains, and that on repairing to [ \* \* \* ] they will be received into the service of the honourable Company, or otherwise will obtain a provision equal to the amount of their pay and allowances in the Maratha service, and will be entitled to every indulgence consistent with the principles and regulations of the British Government ; such persons will be required to produce to the officers stationed at [ \* \* ] for the express purpose of receiving their authentic proofs of their having quitted the Maratha service in consequence of this proclamation, previously to their being considered to be entitled to the benefits tendered to their acceptance by the terms of this proclamation.

**No. 204**—Collins considers it most probable that Kashi Rao Holkar would be dissatisfied with the proposed arrangements of Holkar's territories.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 13th July 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 7th, 8th and 9th instant, the first and last accompanied by copies of your addresses, Nos. 98 and 99 to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, and the second in reply to mine of the 3rd of the same month.

I have no doubt that the information you have received respecting the dissatisfaction of Kashi Rao with the concerted partition of the Holkar territories, stated in your letter of the 8th instant, is well founded, since he cannot approve of the power which Jaswant Rao will possess in consequence of that measure. But however displeased Kashi Rao may be with this arrangement, any opposition to it on his part would be unavailing as he is deficient in abilities, firmness of mind, and pecuniary resources. At present this Chieftain resides in a house near Burhanpur, protected and supported by Daulat Rao Sindhia.

In your despatch to His Excellency No. 99, I observe the following passage: "My statements of the change of sentiment and language on the part of Balaji Kunjar at Sindhia's Durbar, referred to the matter contained in Colonel Collins' address to Your Excellency of the 27th of May, copy of which I have just received". On a reference to my official correspondence it appears that I have written no letter to His Excellency, nor to the Government Secretary, on the 27th of May, I therefore conclude there must be some mistake as to the date of the address, noticed by you on this occasion, and which mistake I request you will have the goodness to rectify.

**No. 205**—In this circular letter Collins is asked to keep a regular diary of the affairs of Sindhia's court to be forwarded to the Governor General by every post.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Fort William, 14th July 1803.*

I am directed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to desire that you will keep a regular diary of all transactions and proceedings at the court at which you reside, of a nature connected with the public interests, and transmit by every post the record of each day, with such observations as may appear to you to be necessary for His Excellency's information.

**No. 206**—The Governor General directs the attention of the Governor of Bombay to the means recommended for withdrawing the disciplined troops from the service of Sindhia in northern India and adds that the same should be applied on the Bombay side also.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Fort William, 15th July 1803.*

I have the honour to transmit to you the inclosed copy of a dispatch to the Secretary of the Commander-in-Chief, with copies of the several documents referred to in it.

I am of opinion, that the means recommended to be adopted by the Commander-in-Chief, for withdrawing the disciplined troops in the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, in the northern parts of Hindustan, may be also successfully employed in other quarters, where the troops may be partly composed of sepoys, natives of the British possessions in India, or where they may be commanded by British subjects, or the subjects of any other European or American State.

I accordingly authorize you to offer to such European or American officers in the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia, or of the other Chieftains in confederacy with him, the terms proposed in the inclosed dispatch, and to issue copies of the Proclamation in the European and native languages, properly countersigned, whenever you may receive authentic information of actual hostilities having commenced.

**No. 207**—Close points out to Collins that Sindhia and Bhonsla are delaying their final reply merely to gain time for pressing forward their negotiations with Holkar to include him in their proposed confederacy.

FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Poona, 15th July 1803.*

I have been honoured with your letter of the 9th instant, accompanied by a copy of your address to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General of the 9th.

Adverting to the tenor of these dispatches, I judge it proper to forward for your information, copy of a letter which I addressed to the honourable Major-General Wellesley on the 10th instant. Although I consider the opinions therein contained to apply perfectly to present circumstances, as exhibited in your dispatches above noticed, and to involve decided replies to the questions on which you wish to receive my sentiments, I shall nevertheless proceed to state a few propositions, of the certainty of which I feel the deepest conviction :—

(1) That from the period at which you joined Daulat Rao Sindhia, the designs of that Chieftain and the ministers who direct his affairs, have been hostile to the British Government.

(2) That the object of those designs was to frame a Maratha Confederacy against the British Government and its allies, for the purpose of defeating the Treaty of Bassein, and dislodging us from Poona :

(3) That with this view, Sindhia proceeded to meet and confer with Raghuji Bhonsla at Malkapur, and at the same time opened a negotiation with Jaswant Rao Holkar through the mediation of Raghuji Bhonsla, with the design to include Holkar in the proposed hostile confederacy.

(4) That Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla having made some progress, as they conceived, in the business of the proposed confederacy, did make three marches from Malkapur, in a direct line towards the Nizam's frontier, and towards Poona, in prosecution of their hostile designs, and in immediate opposition to your reiterated remonstrances on the part of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

(5) That Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla having, under a course of the most insidious and treacherous policy, proceeded thus far in the prosecution of their unprovoked and hostile designs, now perceive that advancing further in pursuit of their plans at this period, would involve them in serious danger ; that until they can succeed in uniting Holkar in the proposed confederacy, their strength may be inadequate to the execution of their perfidious designs, and that so long as the rivers continue unfordable, the season must be adverse to the success of their operations.

(6) That in this state of things they are stirring heaven and earth to draw Holkar into their plans, and exerting the whole resources of their ingenuity to practice further deceit on the honesty, honour, and candour of the British Government, and keep it in a state of fallacious hope and dangerous inaction, till time and circumstances shall allow of their coming forward with augmented strength and confident hope of success.

(7) That with regard to the letters lately addressed by Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla to His Excellency the Governor General, the assurances they contain are only conditional, but that were they as satisfactory as

words could make them, the promises which they would contain would be rendered entirely nugatory, by the petty shifts and shameful evasions and falsehoods so often resorted to by the Chiefs in question, by the circumstance of their pressing forward the negotiation with Holkar to unite him in the proposed confederacy; and by the circumstance also, of their persisting to hold their present obnoxious position, in defiance of your constant and anxious entreaties to them to separate, and return to their respective places of residence.

Decidedly impressed as above, I cannot but adhere to the opinions which I have communicated to the honourable Major-General Wellesley; namely, that if Sindhia ventures to pass the Ajanta Ghat, he ought to be attacked by the combined forces under Colonel Stevenson, and that a period should be determined on by the honourable Major-General Wellesley, for the return of Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla to their respective places of residence; that this period should be intimated to those Chieftains, who at the same time should be told, that if at the lapse of the period prescribed they should fail to separate and return to their places of residence, they will be attacked by the forces of the British Government and its allies.

**No. 208**—Collins reports to the Governor General the details of his interview with Sindhia on July 16, when Sindhia completely denied his complicity with the Bundekhand Chiefs and acknowledged that the terms of the Treaty of Bassein contained no stipulation injurious to the general interests of the Deccani Sardars.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL**

*Camp near Jalgaon, 17th July 1803.*

I do myself the honour to forward for Your Excellency's information, copies in English and Persian, of my remonstrance to Daulat Rao Sindhia, on the subject of the intelligence communicated to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone, by Mr. Ahmuty, Collector of Allahabad, in a private letter under date the 7th ultimo.

Yesterday afternoon I waited on the Maharaja, by appointment, accompanied by Captain Paris Bradshaw, and Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan. Jadu Rao Bhau, and all the confidential servants of Sindhia attended the Durbar on the occasion, with the exception of Ambaji Ingle who, it was said, had particular business to settle with the shroffs.



Jadu Rao Bhau commenced the conversation by observing that the Maharaja was exceedingly hurt at the contents of my remonstrance, as he really entertained the most friendly disposition towards the British Government, in proof of which the Bhau instanced the letter that the Maharaja had so recently written to Your Excellency, and which he insisted, ought to have satisfied all my doubts. Jadu Rao went on for a considerable time in the same strain. At length I told him that particular facts could not be done away by general assurances, and I, therefore, expected explicit answers to the following questions, viz.,

1st question. Whether Daulat Rao Sindhia transmitted orders to Himmat Bahadur, and Ghani Bahadur, requiring them to be prepared to co-operate with the confederated Maratha armies, against the British possessions ?

To this question Jadu Rao Bhau replied by a solemn assurance that Daulat Rao Sindhia had never transmitted any orders, to that effect, to the Bundelkhand Chiefs, and the Maharaja confirmed this assurance in the most positive manner.

2nd question. Had any of the servants of the Maharaja endeavoured to excite Himmat Bahadur, and Ghani Bahadur, to act hostilely against the British Government ? Both Sindhia and Jadu Rao declared, that to the best of their knowledge, no servant of their Durbar had made any such attempt : and the latter asked who could dare to adopt so serious a measure without the consent of the Maharaja.

3rd question. What were the objects of the detachment serving under the command of Dharam Rao, on the north-western frontier of the honourable Company's territories ?

Jadu Rao said that Dharam Rao Pandit had been detached solely for the purpose of assisting the *amils* of the Sarkar in realizing the revenues of the Maharaja in that quarter.

4th question. Had Dharam Rao Pandit been instructed by Daulat Rao Sindhia, or by his ministers to commit depredations on the territories of the honourable Company ?

Here the Maharaja and Jadu Rao Bhau declared, with much apparent earnestness, that this Pandit had been most particularly ordered not to injure a blade of grass in the Company's territories, " nor even to molest a dog belonging to the English ". These were their own words, delivered in a manner which seemed to denote that this declaration was sincere. Indeed Jadu Rao voluntarily said, that since doubts had arisen on this subject, he would immediately direct letters to be written to Dharam Rao Pandit, enforcing the orders which he had originally received.

As Daulat Rao Sindhia and his ministers seemed particularly complaisant at this interview, I thought the occasion favourable for renewing the subject of the return of the Maharaja to Hindustan. Jadu Rao Bhau then assured me, that as soon as Sindhia and the Berar Raja received favourable answers to the letters which they had lately addressed to Your Excellency, those Chiefs would repair to their respective countries. And a little while before I took my leave of Sindhia, Jadu Rao, explicitly, acknowledged that the Treaty of Bassein contained no stipulation injurious to the general interests of the Decanni Sardars, but, on the contrary afforded additional security to them, in which remark the Maharaja readily concurred. I then took occasion to remind Daulat Rao Sindhia, that whenever he was disposed to become a party in the Treaty of Bassein, or to enter into separate engagements with the British Government, I had Your Excellency's instructions to commence a negotiation with him for either purpose.

The duplicity of a Maratha court having become proverbial, it would be highly presumptuous in me, were I to give a decided opinion in favour of the sincerity of the friendly professions and assurances of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and of his ministers, on the present occasion. Nevertheless I deem it to be my duty to apprize Your Lordship, that it appeared as well to Captain Bradshaw, as to me, at the foregoing conference, that the disposition of this Court had of late, undergone a change so material, as to afford reasonable grounds to hope that the intention of opposing the arrangements concluded at Bassein, was altogether abandoned. And I am inclined to ascribe this favourable alteration to the contents of the letter which Your Excellency addressed to Daulat Rao Sindhia, under date the 3rd of last month.

Colonel Dudrenec and Major Brownrigg certainly move from hence tomorrow morning, with twelve battalions of sepoy and a large part of artillery. Their destination is, I understand, Jodhpur and Jaipur; their object the plunder of the Rajput Princes. Ambaji Ingolia has, earnestly, solicited permission to repair to Gwalior. This Chief has been compelled to advance nearly eighty lakhs of rupees since his arrival at the court of the Maharaja.

Sindhia has, at present, with him no more than eleven battalions of sepoy (Colonel Dudrenec and Major Brownrigg being detached), seven under the command of Colonel Pohlman, and four in the service of Begum Samru, commanded by Colonel Saleur. The latter are reckoned very indifferent corps.

I omitted to mention, in the proper place, that Jadu Rao Bhau said, he should circulate copies of Your Excellency's reply to the letters lately addressed to Your Lordship, by Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla, among the principal feudatory Maratha Chieftains.

**No. 209**—General Wellesley asks Collins to inform the Maratha Chiefs that he has been invested with full powers to deal with them and in that capacity calls upon Sindhia and Bhonsla to retire. In the event of their refusing to do so, the General threatens them with hostilities.

**FROM—GENERAL A. WELLESLEY,**

**TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.**

*Camp [near Sangwi], 18th July 1803.*

I have the honour to enclose the copy of a letter received from His Excellency the Governor General from a perusal of which you will perceive, that His Excellency has been pleased to entrust to me extraordinary powers for the purpose of concluding whatever arrangements may become necessary, either for the final settlement of peace, or for the active prosecution of war. I request you to be so kind as to communicate this circumstance to Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Raja of Berar.

You will be so kind, at the same time, to inform those Chiefs, that consistently with the principles and uniform practice of the British Government, I am perfectly ready to attend to their interests and to enter into negotiations with them upon subjects by which they may suppose those interests to be affected. But they must first withdraw their troops from the positions which they have taken up, upon the Nizam's frontiers, and return to their usual stations in Hindustan and Berar respectively, and on my part, I will withdraw the Company's troops to their usual stations.

You will point out to those Chiefs, that as they have declared they have no intention to obstruct the execution of the Treaty of Bassein, or to march to Poona, or to invade the territories of the Nizam, to withdraw their troops to their usual stations is only consistent with those declarations, and a proof that they are sincere. On the other hand, to retain their position upon the Nizam's frontier, is the strongest proof that they can give of the insincerity of those declarations.

You will, therefore, again call upon them to retire, as being the only measure by which the peace between the British Government and them can be preserved.

It may happen that Daulat Rao Sindhia will urge the difficulty of crossing the rivers Tapti and Narbada as an excuse for not withdrawing his troops at the present moment. That excuse will not apply at all to the Raja of Berar, to whose return to Nagpur there are no impediments whatever, and therefore his march to his capital is indispensable, and it might be disputed in respect to Daulat Rao Sindhia. But it is certain that the passage of the army of that Chief over those rivers will be attended with some difficulties. These difficulties, however, are to be surmounted and at all events there is nothing to prevent his returning to Burhanpur and commencing to send his troops across the Tapti and making arrangements for sending them across the Narbada.

If he should urge those difficulties, you will make known to him my sentiments upon them as above stated and you will require of him to give a proof that his declarations are not insincere, by falling back to Burhanpur, and by commencing to pass his troops over the Tapti, and his arrangements for crossing the Narbada.

If the Raja of Berar should return to Nagpur, and Sindhia should adopt the measure above pointed out as preparatory to his crossing the rivers Tapti and Narbada, I shall be satisfied. But if you should find those Chiefs obstinately determined to remain in their positions upon the Nizam's frontiers, you will be so kind as to inform them, that I have requested you to withdraw from the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia and accordingly you will leave it on the following day. In that case, you might proceed to Colonel Stevenson's camp, which you will find at about 10 *kos* from Aurangabad, and from thence the Colonel will furnish you with an escort to enable you to join me. If you should find it necessary to quit Daulat Rao Sindhia's camp, I request you to take the earliest opportunity of acquainting Colonel Stevenson thereof, as I have directed him to take up a position in the neighbourhood of the *ghat* from which he will be able to attack with a superior force any party of Sindhia's that may ascend it, and thus prevent that Chief from employing his army above the *ghat* till I shall have brought to a close the operations I have in contemplation south of the Godavari and shall be enabled to join Colonel Stevenson.

I have reports from *harkarabs* that two brigades of Sindhia's infantry are at the Ajanta Ghat and that Gopal Bhau's detachment of cavalry are above the *ghat*. But that the latter have received orders to retire, which they appear disinclined to obey. Before you quit Sindhia's camp it will be very desirable that you should endeavour to ascertain the general position of his troops, the number and description in each station, and by whom commanded.

Indeed this measure would appear desirable at all events whether that Chief consents to retire or not, as supposing he should retire you cannot be certain that he will have withdrawn all his troops, unless you are acquainted with their numbers, and the station which they at present occupy.

I request you also to endeavour to ascertain the same circumstances respecting the troops of the Raja of Berar, and to communicate the intelligence which you will receive regarding the troops of each Chief to Colonel Stevenson as well as to me.

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**No. 210**—Collins informs the Governor General about the changed attitude of Balaji Kunjar towards the English.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Camp near Jalgaon, 18th July 1803.*

Having received from Mr. Secretary Edmonstone a copy of the instructions of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, under date the 20th ultimo, to your address ; and it appearing therefrom, that His Lordship was not apprized of the particulars relating to the change of language and conduct of Balaji Kunjar, I thought it necessary to transmit to Mr. Edmonstone, for the information of His Excellency, copies of three letters which I had written to you respecting that vakil, and which are dated the 27th of last May, 13th ultimo, and 24th ultimo.

I have the honour to forward a transcript of my dispatch to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General.

**No. 211**—Collins informs Gen. Wellesley that Sindhia had agreed to meet Mirza Bakar Khan on July 20, and promises to intimate the details of the interview soon after.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—GENERAL A. WELLESLEY, NEAR JAMGAON.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 20th July 1803.*

Yesterday I have the honour to receive your favour of the 14th instant covering a letter to the address of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, with copies thereof in Persian and English.

As the 19th paragraph of my instructions from His Excellency the most noble the Governor General under date the 3rd ultimo, directs me to accept of no proof of Daulat Rao Sindhia's determination to refrain from any attempt to obstruct the complete operation of the Treaty of Bassein, but such as shall be satisfactory to you and to Colonel Close, and it being your opinion, in which Colonel Close concurs, that the declaration and intentions of Sindhia cannot be trusted unless he separates from the Raja of Berar, removes to Burhanpur, and makes preparations for crossing the Tapti, and unless the Raja of Berar commences his march to Nagpur; influenced by these opinions, I felt no hesitation in resolving to present your address to Daulat Rao Sindhia without delay.

Accordingly I yesterday apprized Jadu Rao Bhau that having a matter of importance to communicate to the Maharaja, I requested he would name an early hour for my Munshi to attend at the Durbar. Jadu Rao replied, that the Maharaja was then engaged in the performance of a religious ceremony, and had in consequence appointed the afternoon of the following day for the attendance of Mirza Bakar Khan.

As the procrastinating spirit which so much prevails at this court, may, probably, prevent an immediate decision on your requisition to Daulat Rao Sindhia, I shall not wait to learn the result of my Munshi's conference, but immediately forward this letter, in order that you may be speedily apprized of my having received the remonstrance which you addressed to the Maharaja, as well as of my intention to have the same fully explained to him without delay.

**No. 212**—Stuart informs General Wellesley that he was retiring to the Carnatic, leaving behind a strong detachment on the frontier to support the general operations. He also suggests that the General might only mask Ahmadnagar by a corps of infantry and troops and not take it at the very outset of the hostilities.

**FROM—LT.-GEN. STUART, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,**

**TO—MAJ. GEN. ARTHUR WELLESLEY.**

*Camp South Bank of Tungbhadra, 20th July 1803.*

Lord Clive in a despatch of the 15th instant has suggested to me the necessity of reinforcing the troops in advance in order to enable you to secure more effectually the objects of your general measures, and the necessity of removing the remaining part of this army into the Carnatic. I have concurred in the reasoning upon which His Lordship's opinion is founded and I have determined to carry His Lordship's suggestions into effect according to the following plan.

Lieut.-Colonel Close in a letter to Mr. Webbe of the 3rd instant mentions a reinforcement of two native battalions as necessary to the full accomplishment of your plans, and as he states that he had a previous communication with you on the subject, I infer, that his opinion upon this point corresponds with yours. I have, therefore, determined to add two native battalions to the amount of your force and with this view I request you will detain the 1st battalion of the 10th under Major Dallas and I shall detach to join you the day after tomorrow the 1st battalion of the 4th Regiment commanded by Major Hill. I shall forward to you under escort of that corps  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of Pagodas in gold and as many *Brinjarrey* and hired cattle as can be sent.

Should the whole of the remaining part of this army return to the Carnatic, the Ceded Districts from the weakness of the force left in them would be exposed to internal commotions, our frontier would be deprived of all protection, no check would remain upon the conduct of the Southern Jagirdars and the Nizam's subjects, and the communication with your force would be liable to interruption. To prevent these consequences, I have recommended to Lord Clive, that a detachment composed of 1 regt. of native cavalry, 5 companies of European infantry, 2 battalions of sepoys and a proportion of artillery, should be left by this army upon the frontier. I have proposed that the above detachment should occupy a position in the neighbourhood of Mudgal, where its position will be equally favourable to the protection of Mysore and the Ceded districts, and to the preservation of order amongst the Southern Jagirdars and the Nizam's subjects. The detachment can eventually proceed to join you, or to the Carnatic, as the emergency of public affairs may require. It will be necessary to place General Campbell in the

command of the detachment ; he will be fully informed of the objects of its employment, and apprized of the powers as far as they relate to the command of all the troops to the northward of Tungbhadra, which you have received from the Governor General. He will be directed to attend to your suggestions, and to forward the service connected with your operations to the furthest extent of his power, but in the case of a necessity occurring for the movement of the detachment beyond the Malprabha or Krishna, I request that you will state it to me, in order that I may give directions for the movement, and for General Campbell repairing himself to the Ceded Districts. As, however, the pressure of affairs in the Carnatic may require the services of that detachment you will of course apply for it in a case of urgency only.

The force which will immediately move to the Carnatic consists of 1 regt. of European and 1 of native cavalry, 1 regt. and 7 companies of European infantry, 1 batt. of sepoys and a detail of artillery. If the French make any serious attack on the coast, this force will be scarcely equal to repel it, but before they arrive in force I should hope that time will be afforded for the formation of our new services. The precipitate departure of the French squadron leaves no doubt in my mind of the renewal of the war, and as other French squadrons are known to be on their way to India, the French Captain-General may have gone to join them and may intend to return when his force is augmented.

Col. Close mentions that the taking of Ahmednagar will be the first object of the operations of your detachment. That place is undoubtedly of the greatest importance in every view ; but as the objects of our measures, if a war takes place, will be to strike as sudden and severe a blow as possible against the armies of Sindhia and the Bhonsla, it has appeared to me that you might effect this with greater facility by leaving Ahmednagar masked by a corps of infantry and country horse, and proceeding to join Col. Stevenson. I mention the above as a suggestion only. Your nearer view of the subject must enable you to judge better.

**No. 213**—Stuart describes the arrangement made pending orders to carry over Gen. Campbell's detachment to the Raichur Doab.

FROM—LT. GEN. STUART,

TO— ?

*Camp South Bank of Tungbhadra, 21st July 1803.*

I enclose for your information copy of my dispatch to General Wellesley of yesterday's date. I have 50 boats ready to carry over General Campbell's detachment to the Doab as soon as I shall receive Lord Clive's approbation of my proposed arrangement. My army (one battalion of sepoys excepted) have all been on this side of the river, departments etc. etc., for these two days past.



**No. 214**—Collins reports to General Wellesley the details of Mirza Bakar Khan's interview with Jadu Rao Bhau and Sindhia, and adds that being deeply impressed Jadu Rao Bhau was trying for a peaceful solution.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MAJ.-GEN. A. WELLESLEY.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 21st July 1803.*

A few hours after I had sent off my letter to you of yesterday's date, I received two despatches from Mr. Secy. Edmonstone of the 27th and 28th ultimo; the former, containing a copy of the instructions of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General to you, under date the 26th of last June, accompanied by orders from His Excellency for the guidance of my conduct in consequence of the powers delegated to you by those instructions; the latter enclosing an extract of a letter from the most noble the Governor General to your address dated the 27th ultimo.

I trust, Sir, it would be needless in me to offer any assurances that I shall have great pleasure in obeying the orders I have received on this occasion, and which direct me to comply with such intimations as you may convey to me in conformity with the powers lately delegated to you by His Excellency, as well as to afford you every degree of practicable aid in the exercise of those powers.

I shall now proceed to state the result of the communication, made by Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan, of the contents of the letter addressed by you to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia. Jadu Rao Bhau being the only minister of this Court who possesses influence and ability, I directed Mirza Bakar to call on him previously to his repairing to the Durbar and to represent as follows.

"That Col. Collins regarding Jadu Rao Bhau as a man of understanding, and as one desirous of preventing hostilities between the two Sarkars, had sent to apprise him of the contents of the honourable General Wellesley's letter, before it was presented to the Maharaja, in order that Jadu Rao might consider, maturely, its important tendency, and be enabled to give his Prince such advice as the present critical situation of his affairs so immediately required. Mirza Bakar then proceeded to state that General Wellesley's letter contained a confirmation of what Colonel Collins had so repeatedly stated to this Darbar, namely that the continuance of the united forces of the Maharaja and of the Berar Raja, in this quarter, would speedily involve those Chieftains in a war

with the English, since their present position could have been assumed for no other purpose than that of menacing the territories of our ally the Nawab Nizam, that the observations which the honourable General had made, as well on the conduct as on the language of the Maharaja, were indisputably just, as was, also the inference which the General had drawn therefrom, that the offer of General Wellesley to withdraw the British forces whenever Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla should repair to their respective capitals, was a most convincing proof, on his part, of pacific intentions, consequently that should the Maratha Chiefs refuse to comply with the General's reasonable requisition, it would be apparent to every power in Hindustan that their designs had all along been hostile towards the British Government and its allies, notwithstanding their late friendly professions, that the assurance contained in the last paragraph of General Wellesley's letter to the Maharaja, was so liberal, and explicit, as to leave Sindhia and the Bhonsla no possible excuse for delaying their march towards their respective countries. Lastly that the honourable General Wellesley was of a character not to be trifled with, and, therefore, Jadu Rao might depend on it as a positive certainty that in the event either of evasion, or of procrastination, in the present instance, the British troops would enter upon action without further delay."

The foregoing discourse appeared to make a deep impression on Jadu Rao Bhau, who acknowledged that the assurance contained in the concluding paragraph of your letter to Daulat Rao Sindhia was very satisfactory. He likewise told Mirza Bakar that he was much obliged by the confidence I had placed in him. Jadu Rao then proposed that they both should attend the Durbar, and advised the Mirza to repeat the foregoing arguments in the presence of the Maharaja. This was accordingly done ; after your letter had been fully explained to Sindhia, and Jadu Rao took this occasion to observe, that considering the rank, authority, and connection of the English Sardar, who had written to the Maharaja, no doubt could be entertained but that his assurances would be confirmed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General and then asked permission of Daulat Rao Sindhia to wait on Raghuji Bhonsla with your letter in order to consult with that Chief on its important contents. Sindhia having consented to this proposal, Jadu Rao, immediately, set off towards the camp of Raghuji Bhonsla and I expect to be informed of the result of his visit during the course of this day.

Early this morning Mirza Bakar Khan repaired to the camp of the Berar Raja, in order to make a representation to this Chieftain, and to Shridhar Pant, exactly similar to that which he had yesterday offered to the consideration of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and I must confess that the late change in the language of the ministers of the Maharaja induces me to hope that your requisition will be, shortly complied with.

**No. 215**—Collins informs General Wellesley that his Munshi did not find Raghuji Bhonsla very pliable. Bhonsla insisted on an assurance to both of them from the Peshwa. Collins further points out that possibly at the instigation of Bhonsla, Sindhia might also not carry out the requisition put forth by General Wellesley, and asks for instructions to guide his own conduct in that eventuality.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 22nd July 1803.*

I had the honor to apprise you in my letter of yesterday's date, that Munshi Mirza Baker Khan had been sent to the court of the Raja of Berar for the purpose of representing to that Chief the necessity of his repairing to his capital without delay.

Mirza Bakar Khan returned from this visit early yesterday evening, and I am concerned to state that he did not find Raghuji Bhonsla well disposed to comply with your requisition, although the Mirza did not fail to use the same arguments, which had apparently made a due impression on the minds of Daulat Rao Sindhia and of Jadu Rao Bhau. The Bhonsla admitted, however, that the assurance contained in the concluding paragraph of your letter to Sindhia was fully satisfactory so far as it related to the intentions of the British Government, but he insisted on it as proper that His Highness the Peshwa should give similar assurances, as well to Daulat Rao Sindhia as to himself before their forces separated or quitted their present position. The conversation on this occasion was carried on for several hours; at the conclusion Raghuji said, that he would consult personally with Sindhia in the evening, after which a reply should be given to your letter. Accordingly the Maharaja waited on the Berar Raja last night and the conference between those Chieftains lasted until a late hour. In consequence of the foregoing information, I this morning addressed a note to Daulat Rao Sindhia, copies of which in English and Persian I do myself the honour to enclose for your perusal.

It being, I think, probable from the conversation which passed between Mirza Bakar and the Bhonsla, that Sindhia may be induced to refuse, or to evade, compliance with your requisition, and as it appears by the extract of the letter to your address from His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, under date the 27th ultimo, transmitted to me by Mr. Secretary Edmonstone, that I am not at liberty to leave this Court unless by your desire, I have to request your instructions for the guidance of my conduct in the event of refusal or procrastination on the part of Daulat Rao Sindhia or of Raghuji to separate and return with their forces to their respective countries.

As I am anxious to learn your resolve on the above question, I shall close this letter without waiting for a reply to the note which I just now addressed to the Maharaja.

**No. 216**—The Governor General is informed that a note sent by Collins asking Sindhia and Bhonsla to retire to their respective capitals is yet unanswered, and further that some part of Sindhia's army has gone to Hindustan.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 23rd July 1803.*

Since I had the honor to address Your Excellency on the 17th instant, I have been favored with the reply of the honourable Major-General Wellesley to the reference that I made to him, and to Colonel Close, in my letter of the 9th of this month, a copy of which formed part of my dispatch to Your Lordship of the same date.

As the Hon'ble General Wellesley has given a very clear and decided opinion on the necessity of Daulat Rao Sindhia's withdrawing his troops from the Nizam's frontier, and, in consequence of this opinion, has addressed a representation to the Maharaja, calculated to induce that Chief, and the Berar Raja, to retire to their respective capitals, I deem it my duty to forward to Your Excellency copies Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 of the letters which have passed between the hon'ble General, and me, on that important subject.

Daulat Rao Sindhia has not yet replied to the note that I addressed to him, yesterday morning, a transcript of which is contained in enclosure No. 5. Indeed I understand that the Maharaja, and the Berar Raja, are, as yet, undecided whether to comply with, or refuse the requisition of the hon'ble General Wellesley. In order, however, to hasten their determination, I shall, this day, demand an audience of Daulat Rao Sindhia for the express purpose of obtaining an answer to the General's letters.

Colonel Dudrenec and Major Brownrigg have marched with their corps towards Hindustan, conformably to the intimation which I had the honour to communicate to Your Excellency on the 17th instant. But I must beg leave to correct a mistake that I then made, respecting the strength of Colonel Dudrenec's brigade, which consists of seven battalions of infantry, and five hundred cavalry, instead of eight battalions as before stated.

**No. 216A**—Enclosure referred to as No. 5 in the above letter.

*Copy of a Note addressed to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia by  
Colonel Collins on the morning of the 22nd July 1803.*

As Colonel Collins understands that Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia held a conference with Raja Raghuji Bhonsla last night for the purpose of determining on the answer that should be given to the letter addressed to the Maharaja by the hon'ble General Wellesley, Colonel Collins requests that Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia will favour him with a communication of the result of that conference ; and as the hon'ble

General Wellesley expects an early reply to his letter the Colonel trusts that the Maharaja will no longer delay writing to the General in order to satisfy him that his requisition will be immediately complied with.

**No. 217**—Collins informs Gen. Wellesley that on the previous day he had addressed memorials to Sindhia and Bhonsla, but no reply has yet been received. He also supplies some information about the Maratha armies and their movements.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 24th July 1803.*

I had the honour to receive your letter of the 18th instant yesterday morning, and conformably to the instructions contained therein, I addressed memorials to Daulat Rao Sindhia, and to the Raja of Berar, in which every argument and observation that you had furnished me with were stated, nearly, in your own words. I do myself the honour to enclose copies in English and Persian, No. 1 of my memorial to Sindhia; that to Raghuji Bhonsla was precisely the same, except in one passage, and which is noticed in the enclosure No. 1.

Yesterday at noon I sent a message to the Maharaja intimating, that as he had not replied to my note of the 22nd instant, I expected he would grant me an audience that evening, but Sindhia was then engaged at a *nautch* (dance party), and could not be spoken with. This morning early, I sent Mirza Bakar Khan to the Durbar in order to explain the contents of my memorial, and at the same time to insist on my having a conference with the Maharaja some time in the course of to-day. The Mirza repaired to the camp of Sindhia at seven o'clock, but is not yet returned, although it be now two in the afternoon.

If after another conference with Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla, I should find them obstinately determined to retain their present positions on the Nizam's frontier, I shall, in compliance with your instructions, inform those Chieftains that I have been directed by you to leave the camp of the Maharaja and in this event I shall instantly appraise Colonel Stevenson of my intended departure.

The troops which your *harkarahs* saw at the Ajanta Ghat, were sepoy Battalions in the service of the Berar Raja. These corps have been since withdrawn, and are returned to the camp of Raghuji Bhonsla. They were commanded by a native officer named Beni Singh. Twenty-two guns were attached to those corps.

In my address to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, under date the 17th instant, I mentioned that Sindhia had detached Colonel Dudrenec, and Major Brownrigg, with the corps which they commanded, towards Hindustan. This intelligence was true, but I made a mistake with respect to the strength of Colonel Dudrenec's brigade, which consists of seven battalions, and five hundred cavalry, instead of eight sepoy battalions, as I erroneously stated in my letter to His Excellency.

Allow me, Sir, to remind you, that I long since gave you very particular statements as well of Sindhia's forces, as of the Bhonsla's, and although those statements were communicated in private letters, yet I conceived they might have proved sufficiently satisfactory. I shall, however, take an early opportunity of transmitting to you an official report on this subject, conformably to your wishes. But in the mean time, I can assure you, that Sindhia has only eleven battalions of infantry with him at present, and that no brigade of his was ever posted at the Ajanta Ghat. My last advices from the camp of Colonel Dudrenec mention that he had marched twenty *kos* on the direct route towards Burhanpur.

I have the honour to enclose a copy and translate of a note which I this instant received from the Berar Raja.

**No. 217A—Enclosure.**

*Memorial addressed to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia by Colonel Collins on the 23rd and delivered on the 24th July 1803.*

Colonel Collins apprizes Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia that His Excellency the most noble the Governor General has been pleased to delegate the direction and control of all political, and military affairs in Hindustan, and in the Deccan, to the honourable Major-General Wellesley, who is, also vested with full powers to commence, and conclude, negotiations with the Maratha Chieftains, and Jagirdars, on the part of the British Government. Colonel Collins further informs the Maharaja

that all such engagements as the honourable Major-General Wellesley may conclude with any of the Maratha Chiefs, and Jagirdars, will be confirmed by His Excellency the most noble the Governor General. The honourable Major-General Wellesley has, in consequence, instructed Colonel Collins to assure Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia that he is perfectly ready to attend to the interests of the Maharaja, and to enter into a negotiation with him upon objects by which the Maharaja may suppose those interests to be affected, but that, in the first place, the General expects that the troops of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia shall withdraw from their present position upon the Nizam's frontier, and return to their usual stations in Hindustan, in which case the General, on his part, will withdraw the honourable Company's forces to their usual stations. The honourable Major-General Wellesley has, likewise, directed Colonel Collins to observe, that since the Maharaja has declared he has no intention to obstruct the execution of the Treaty of Bassein or to march to Poona, or to invade the territories of the Nizam, to withdraw his troops to their usual stations would only be consistent with those declarations, and a proof that they were sincere; while, on the other hand, should the forces of the Maharaja retain their present position upon the Nizam's frontier, after the friendly representations which the honourable General has made on this subject, such a proceeding would be the strongest proof which the Maharaja could give of the insincerity of those declarations. The honourable Major-General Wellesley has, therefore, instructed Colonel Collins to repeat his former application to the Maharaja to retire with his troops from the Nizam's frontier, that being the only measure by which the peace between the British Government, and his Sarkar, can be preserved.

*N.B.*—A similar remonstrance was presented to the Raja of Berar with an exception of one passage, in which he is required to withdraw his troops from the Nizam's frontier, and to return to Nagpur.

**No. 217B**—Enclosure.

*Translate-copy of a note from Raja Raghuji Bhonsla to Colonel Collins,  
received on the 24th July 1803.*

The letter, which you sent to me is received and the particulars of its contents are thoroughly understood. The answer to it depends on a meeting between me and Daulat Rao Sindhia Bahadur. After we shall have met and personally discussed the subject of it, the reply will then certainly be committed to writing.

**No. 218**—Collins informs Gen. Wellesley that personally Jadu Rao Bhau deemed it expedient for Sindhia to withdraw to Hindustan. Collins forwards a statement of the forces of Sindhia and Bhonsla at Jalgaon.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 25th July 1803.*

I have the honour to enclose a copy and translate of a note which I received last night from Daulat Rao Sindhia.

The Maharaja was not visible yesterday, in consequence of his having sat up at a *nautch* [dance-party] during the whole of the preceding night. But Mirza Bakar Khan had a long conference with Jadu Rao Bhau on the subject of my last memorial to Daulat Rao Sindhia, and although this minister did not appear altogether pleased at the idea of his master being compelled to retire from his present position, yet from the general tenor of his discourse on this occasion, Mirza Bakar inferred, that Jadu Rao was of opinion it would be more advisable for Sindhia to withdraw his forces from the Nizam's frontier than to hazard a rupture with the British Government.

You will perceive, by the enclosed note, that I am to have an audience of Sindhia this afternoon, when I shall not fail to exert my utmost endeavours in order to prevail on this Prince to comply with your requisition.

I have the honour to forward a statement of the forces of the Maharaja and Raja of Berar in which their respective positions are particularly described.

**No. 218A**—Enclosure.

*Translate-copy of a letter from Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to Colonel Collins, dated 24th July 1803.*

Your letter is received and its contents understood.

Whenever Sena Sahib Raja Raghuji Bhonsla and I shall meet and be seated together in the same place you will then be requested to attend, and whatever is to be stated will then be discussed. An interview between the Raja and me is indispensable on this occasion. If you are resolved on having an audience, come tomorrow when only four *gharis* of the day shall remain. My house is your own.



## No. 218B—Enclosure.

## Statement of the Force now with Sindhia at Jalgaon, 25th July 1803.

	Cavalry		Infantry		Guns	
	Hindustani Horse	Deccany Horse	Sepoy Battns.	Match lock men	Heavy Guns	Field pieces
Under the command of Col. Pohlmann .. ..	500	....	7	5 <sup>h</sup>	8	40
Under the command of Col. Saleur and in the pay of Begum Samru ..	....	....	4	....	2	30
Under the command of different native sardars .. ..	12,000	2,000	....	....	....	....
Under the command of Bapuji Sindhia who joined the Maharaja on the 23rd of May last.	4,000	....	....	....	....	....
Park of artillery .. ..	....	....	....	....	25	100
Total .. ..	16,500	2,000	11	500	35	170

N.B.—Each Sepoy Battalion is nearly 700 rank and file.

## Statement of the Forces of the Raja of Berar at Jalgaon, 25th July 1803.

Under the command of different native sardars .. ..	20,000	....	....	....	....	....
Under the command of Beni Singh .. ..	....	6,000	....	....	....	35
Camels carrying rockets .. ..	....	....	....	....	....	500
Camels carrying <i>shatarnals</i> .. ..	....	....	....	....	....	500
Total .. ..	20,000	6,000	....	....	....	500

*Disposition of the above Force.*

The Maharaja with the whole of his cavalry is encamped to the north of the range of hills called the Ajanta Chat, 10 *kos* from the pass of Ferdapur and from that of Ajanta, which is impassable for guns. On the right of the Maharaja at the distance of 2 *kos* Col. Pohlmann is posted with his brigade; about a *kos* in the rear of Colonel Pohlmann, Colonel Saleur is posted with the corps of Begum Somru. Gopal Bhau having been left in the Deccan by Maharaja on his return to Hindustan in the year 1801, and the strength of his detachment having at different times varied according to circumstances, the exact number of his troops cannot be ascertained. It is, however, certain he has been repeatedly and positively ordered to join the Maharaja. The Raja of Berar is encamped 2 *kos* on the left of the Maharaja with the whole of his artillery, cavalry and infantry.

*N.B.*—Colonel J. Shepherd, with the whole of the regular infantry and guns of Ambaji Rao has already crossed the Narbada. Colonel Dudrenec and Major Brownrigg with battalions of sepoys and a large park of artillery marched from Jalgaon towards the Narbada on the 18th instant.

**No. 219**—Collins informs Major-General Wellesley of the details of his interview with Sindhia on July 25. The movements of the Maratha Chiefs were explained as being in their own territories and no harm was meant to the English or to their allies. When pressed for a final reply Sindhia promised to give it on July 28.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY, COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH FORCES.**

*Camp near Jalgaon, 26th July 1803.*

Conformably to the intimation which I had the honour to give you in my letter of the 25th instant, I waited on Daulat Rao Sindhia, yesterday afternoon, accompanied by Captain Paris Bradshaw, and Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan. Ambaji Ingle, Jadu Rao Bhau, Anna Bhaskar, Sadashiv Vithal Pant, and Munshi Kavalanayan were present at the durbar on the part of the Maharaja.

After an interchange of compliments, I asked Sindhia whether the contents of your letter had been explained to him, and whether he fully comprehended the substance of my last memorial. Sindhia replied that the contents of both those papers had been particularly explained to him, and that he perfectly understood the nature of your requisition, as well as the motives which had induced the same. Notwithstanding this positive assurance, I recapitulated every argument and observation with which you had furnished me, and then advised the Maharaja, as he regarded his own interests, to afford you the satisfaction you required without evasion, or delay.

Jadu Rao Bhau, in reply, entered into a long discussion, on the subject of your requisition, of which what follows is an abstract. "That the forces of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and of the Berar Raja, were encamped in their own territories. That those Chieftains had solemnly promised not to ascend the Ajanta Ghat, nor to march to Poona. That they had, already, given His Excellency the most noble the Governor General, assurances, in writing, under their own seals, that they never would attempt to subvert the Treaty of Bassein, which assurances were unequivocal proofs of thier friendly intentions. That they purposed sending vakils to the Peshwa, in order to obtain an assurance from His Highness, similar to that which they had lately received from the honourable General Wellesley. Lastly that the treaty now negotiating between Sindhia and Holkar, was not completely settled, and that until it was finally concluded the Maharaja could not return to Hindustan."

In answer to these objections on the part of Jadu Rao, I observed, that the honourable General Wellesley had already pointed out to Daulat Rao Sindhia how impossible it was that he (the General) should trust to promises alone for the security of the honourable Company and their allies, whilst two large armies occupied a position so near the frontier of the Nawab Nizam. I said, that if Daulat Rao Sindhia derived any advantage from his present position, or if it were in the least necessary for the defence of his own possessions, in either of these supposed cases, General Wellesley would have made proper allowances, but it was notorious, that the Maharaja had no enemies in this quarter and was so far from deriving any advantage, that he incurred a most intolerable expense, and suffered great inconvenience in his present situation, and therefore, his retaining it, could only be ascribed to hostile designs against the British Government, or its allies.

Pursuing my discourse, I reminded Daulat Rao Sindhia that at the time when it was proposed at this Durbar to give assurances in writing to His Excellency the most noble the Governor General of the intentions of the Berar Raja, and of the Maharaja, to respect the Treaty of Bassein, I had, then, said, that His Excellency would yield no credit to the sincerity of their promises, unless those Chiefs returned to their respective capitals, and that, on this occasion, I had further declared that I could not be responsible for the honourable General Wellesley's abstaining from hostilities, if their troops did not immediately retire from the Nizam's frontier. I then remarked that as General Wellesley was now vested with full powers, as well political, as military, the assurance contained in his letter to the Maharaja was of equal validity, as if given by the most noble the Governor General, and consequently, ought to satisfy all doubts whatever. However, that General Wellesley would have no objection to the sending vakils to the court of Poona, provided Sindhia, and the Bhonsla would, in the first instance, retire from the frontier of the Nawab Nizam. Lastly I observed, that if any part of the treaty with Jaswant Rao Holkar still remained unadjusted, that Burhanpur was a much more eligible situation for carrying on the negotiation than the Nizam's frontier, and I concluded with insisting on an immediate and distinct reply to the requisition of the honourable General Wellesley.

As Jadu Rao Bhau appeared at a loss to answer the foregoing observations and arguments, he attempted to evade the subject by promising to give me the satisfaction I demanded in the course of a few days. I replied that General Wellesley's letter had been presented to the Maharaja five days since, consequently, that there had been time

sufficient for Sindhia and his ministers to consider maturely on its contents, and therefore, I should not submit to further procrastination on the part of this court. On this head there was some altercation, but at length, Sindhia and his ministers, having solemnly pledged their words that I should have a distinct and pleasing answer on the 28th of this month, in the presence of Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, I consented to wait till then for their ultimate decision.

Last night I was favoured with your letter of the 21st instant enclosing a *kharita* to the address of the Raja of Berar, which I this morning forwarded to the Raja accompanied by a note from myself.

No. 220—Collins informs Close about the arrival of the Peshwa's agent at Jalgaon on July 22, and points out that not much could be expected from him.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 26th July 1803.*

Krishnaji Bhawani reached this place on the 22nd instant, and on the following day sent a complimentary message to apprise me of his arrival. On the 26th Mirza Bakar Khan waited on Krishnaji at his own request, but this agent had no other intelligence to communicate, than that he had been deputed hither by His Highness the Peshwa to prevent Sindhia from proceeding to Poona, and to persuade that Chieftain to act conformably with the views of the British Government.

Although Krishnaji Bhawani did not pretend to have obtained any knowledge of the designs of this court, yet he took upon himself to express an opinion, that I should not be too precipitate in urging the Maharaja to retire from his present position. The truth is, as Daulat Rao Sindhia lately exercised the most unlimited influence in the counsels of the Peshwa, every person who comes from Poona, entertains the highest opinion of the great power and authority of the Maharaja; and hence little good can be expected to the public interests from the representations of the vakils whom His Highness Baji Rao has deputed to this Durbar, since they never will venture to address Sindhia in firm and manly language.

**No. 221**—In this important despatch the Governor General acquaints Lord Lake with the objects to be attained in the prosecution of hostilities with Sindhia and Bhonsla. After laying down the most promising plan for waging war on the north-western frontier of Hindustan, he chalks out the general plan of attack, and makes it clear that one important point to be achieved is the reduction of the French State of M. Perron.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, (LORD LAKE).

*Fort William, 27th July 1803.*

The necessity of providing for the event of hostilities with Sindhia and the Raja of Berar has already induced me to transmit to Your Excellency, in the form of private notes, such suggestions as have appeared to me to be requisite for the purpose of enabling Your Excellency to frame a plan of military operations connected with the political consideration which have ultimately compelled me to engage in war against those Chieftains, and with the objects which I deem most important to secure, by the success of our arms, in the final settlement of peace.

These private communications from me have been answered by Your Excellency in the same form and I have hitherto deemed it to be expedient to return my observations upon Your Excellency's propositions through the channel of private correspondence; it is now expedient to adopt the regular course of official correspondence with Your Excellency in the Secret Department, and I shall accordingly henceforth address you in the form observed in this letter, or through the Secretary in the Secret Department, according to the nature of the subject under discussion.

In this despatch I propose to state to Your Excellency my views and intentions with regard to the following important points:—

*1st.*—The objects which appear to me to be most desirable to be attained in the prosecution of hostilities against Sindhia and the Raja of Berar, on the north-western frontier of Hindustan.

*2nd.*—The general plan of military operations by which those objects appear to be attainable with the greatest degree of expedition and security.

*3rd.*—The course of political arrangements and negotiations which I propose to pursue, under Your Excellency's superintendence, for the purpose of facilitating the operations of your army, and of insuring the stability of peace under the most favourable condition to the British interests.

With a view to render the statement of my sentiments on these questions more clear and distinct, I have annexed to this dispatch copies of the documents enumerated in the margin.

To every person conversant with the true nature of the British interests and power in India, the north-western frontier of Hindustan must have long appeared to present the most vulnerable point of our extensive empire.

The condition of the power of the Sikhs, as well as of that of the Marathas, of the Rajputs, and other petty states, offers considerable advantage to an invading enemy from the more remote north-western countries of Asia, or from the banks of the Indus; and it is unnecessary to remark to Your Excellency's judgment, experience, and knowledge, that the violence and rapacity of the Afghan tribes, or of the Asiatic nations inhabiting the northern and western countries of Asia, might have pursued projects of invasion in that quarter which might have occasioned considerable embarrassment to the British power in India.

A sense of this danger concurred with other motives to induce me to conclude those arrangements with the Nawab Vazir, which terminated in the Treaty of Lucknow, and which secured a considerable augmentation of the military, political, and financial resources and power of the British nation on the north-western frontier of Oudh.

The result of that happy settlement has certainly afforded a great accession of security against the dangers which menaced the stability of our empire on that side of India.

But the local position of Sindhia's territories, the condition and nature of Sindhia's military force in Hindustan, and the corrupt and profligate councils of that weak, arrogant and faithless Chief, still constitute a serious danger to the British interests. The territories of Sindhia between the Jamuna and the Ganges interrupt the line of our defence in that quarter, and some of his principal posts are introduced into the centre of our dominions, while the possession of Agra, Delhi, and of the western and southern banks of the Jamuna enables him to command nearly the whole line of the western frontier.

In the event of any considerable accession of Sindhia's power, or in the event of his forming any connection with France, or with any enemy to the British interests, the actual position of his territories and forces in Hindustan would furnish great advantages to him in any attack upon the Company's dominions.

Formidable as the power of Sindhia might have become in the event of any accession to his strength, a danger more urgent and more direct in all its consequences, has grown out of the decline of Sindhia's

local authority in Hindustan ; and has recently assumed a more alarming aspect in proportion to the accumulated embarrassments of Sindhia's circumstances in the Deccan, and to the general decay of his resources and power.

The regular infantry in the services of Sindhia, under the command of European officers, is supported by funds derivable almost exclusively from the territorial possessions of that Chief situated between the Jamuna, the Ganges, and the mountains of Kumaon.

A considerable portion, if not the whole of this territory, has been assigned to M. Perron, a French officer, who has succeeded M. De Boigne in the chief command of Sindhia's regular infantry.

M. Perron has formed this territory into an independent state, of which Sindhia's regular infantry may be justly termed the national army. That force is now stated to amount to 8,000 infantry and an equal number of cavalry.

The inhabitants of the districts comprehended in M. Perron's *jagir*, consider that officer as their immediate sovereign ; while the troops, supported from the revenues of the country, regard M. Perron as the immediate executive authority from which the army is to receive orders, subsistence, and pay. Possessing such means, M. Perron dictates with the authority of a sovereign state of superior rank, and with the vigour of efficient military power, to the petty states occupying the country to the southward of the Jamuna, and by the terror of his name and arms, holds in abject submission the Rajput States of Jainagar and Jodhpur, together with the *ghats* and the State of Cohad, extending his influence even to Bundelkhand, and to the country occupied by the Sikhs.

Sindhia retains no efficient control over M. Perron, or over his regular troops ; various instances must be familiar to Your Excellency's knowledge, in which M. Perron has either openly disobeyed or systematically evaded the orders of Sindhia, especially in the late crisis of that Chief's affairs.

M. Perron has for some time past manifested a systematic disposition to remove all British officers from the command of Sindhia's regular infantry, and to introduce French officers under his own immediate patronage.

M. Perron is supposed to have amassed a considerable fortune, and Your Excellency is intimately acquainted with his anxious desire to retire to Europe and to dispose of his actual command and of his territorial possessions, to some person of the French Nation.

To these considerations, it is important to add, that M. Perron is in possession of the person of the unfortunate Emperor Shah Alam, and



consequently is master of the nominal authority of that unhappy Prince ; M. Perron, therefore, may transfer this valuable possession, together with his property of any other description, to any French adventurer or officer who may be enabled to complete such a purchase.

Thus the coincidence of various extraordinary and uncontrollable accidents, the weakness of Sindhia's personal character, the rapacity and profligacy of his ministers who have engaged him in pursuits of aggrandizement, avarice, and ambition at a distance from Hindustan, in the Deccan at Poona and in the southern provinces of the Maratha Empire, the treachery of many of his chiefs, whose interests consist in diverting his attention from the affairs of Hindustan to those of the Deccan, and the recent shock which his power has received from Holkar, have contributed to found an independent French State on the most vulnerable part of the Company's frontier.

Under the influence of a succession of French adventurers, this state must be exposed to every intrigue of the French in India, and even to the ambition and hostile spirit of the French Nation ; nor could an instrument of destruction, more skilfully adapted to wound the heart of the British Empire in India, be presented to the vindictive hands of the Chief Consul of France.

This French State actually holds possession of the person and nominal authority of the Mughal, maintains the most efficient army of regular native infantry, and the most powerful artillery now existing in India, with the exception of the Company's troops, and exercises considerable influence over the neighbouring States, from the banks of the Indus to the confluence of the Jamuna and the Ganges.

In the supposition of the most intimate and established connection of amity and alliance between Sindhia and the British power, in the event of Sindhia's accession to the Treaty of Bassein, and to the general defensive alliance with the Company, the Nizam, and the Peshwa, it is impossible to suppose that this French State would co-operate with cordiality in support of the British interests ; and the aid of this state could be least expected in the case which would most urgently demand it, and which would require the most active operation of the principles of the general defensive alliance.

In the event of an attack from France upon the British dominions or power in India, it could not be expected that a French State, erected under the nominal and ostensible auspices of Sindhia in Hindustan, would afford any substantial aid to the ally of the British power in a contest against France, even if that ally should be disposed to assist us in such a crisis.

On the other hand, no doubt exists that Sindhia would receive the most zealous aid from the same State in any attempt which he

might be disposed to make, either for the reduction of the British, or for the aggrandizement of the French power in India.

In addition to these remarks, Your Excellency is apprized that the vicinity of M. Perron's regular infantry operates as a constant drain upon the population of the Company's provinces, and diminishes the sources of our agriculture, manufacture, commerce, and revenue, as well as of our recruits for the army in that quarter.

In the present crisis, when every circumstance announces the probability of a renewal of the war with France, and urges the necessity of resorting to every practicable measure of precaution and security, the safety of the British dominions requires the reduction of M. Perron's military resources and power, independently of any question which might exist between Sindhia and the British Government.

In a state of profound peace, and even of alliance with Sindhia, the necessity of providing for our own security would justify a formal demand for the removal of a danger so imminent from the frontier of our dominions. The refusal of Sindhia to comply with such a demand would afford a just ground of war against that Chief; and any true or false plea of inability on the part of Sindhia to control the movements or to reduce the power of this French State, would authorise and require the British Government to assume the protection of its own territories, and to remove, with its own hand, the proximate cause of insecurity and alarm. Your Excellency will therefore be pleased to understand, that the most desirable object in prosecuting hostilities against Sindhia on the north-western frontier of Hindustan, appears to me to be the entire reduction of M. Perron's regular corps. This operation necessarily includes the capture or destruction of all his artillery and military stores, and especially of all arms of European construction.

Connected with this object, and with every principle of security bearing relation to it, is the occupation of the whole tract of country forming the Doab between the Jamuna and the Ganges to the mountains of Kumaon; and similar considerations will require the occupation of Delhi and Agra, and of a chain of posts on the western and southern banks of the Jamuna, from the mountains of Kumaon to Bundelkhand, sufficient to secure to the British power the free navigation of the Jamuna, and the possession of both banks of the river. It is not my desire to extend the actual possessions of the Company beyond the line of the Jamuna, including Agra and Delhi, with a continued chain of posts to the westward of the Jamuna, for the purpose already described.

Within the described line, my wish and intention is to establish the system of the Company's Government in all its branches; but whatever connections may be formed beyond that line to the westward and southward of the Jamuna must be regulated on the principle of

defensive alliance or tributary dependence, in such a manner as shall form between the actual possessions of the Company and the Marathas, a barrier of petty states exercising the internal government of their respective dominions in alliance with the Company, and under the protection of our power.

In drawing this line, I am aware of the position of the *jagirs* of Sumru's Begum, situated between the Jamuna and the Ganges. For this special case I have accordingly provided in my instructions to Mr. Mercer. It is certainly necessary that the *jagirs* of Sumru's Begum should ultimately be brought under the immediate government of the Company.

It is highly important to secure the possession of the person and nominal authority of the Mughal against the designs of France. The Mughal has never been an important or dangerous instrument in the hands of the Marathas, but might become a powerful aid to the cause of France in India, under the direction of French agents.

The person and authority of that unhappy monarch have been treated by the Marathas, and by M. Perron, with the most barbarous indignity and violence; and it would contribute to the reputation of the British name to afford an honourable and tranquil asylum to the fallen dignity and declining age of the King of Delhi. It would be necessary to extend our protection to His Majesty's Heir-Apparent, and to any of the royal family who might otherwise fall into the hands of France.

The reduction of M. Perron's force would afford us the means of forming alliances with all the inferior states beyond the Jamuna, for the purpose of enabling us, in the first instance, to prosecute the war with the greatest advantage, and finally, by forming a barrier composed of these states, to exclude Sindhia and the Marathas altogether from the northern districts of Hindustan.

It is extremely desirable that Bundelkhand should be ultimately placed under the immediate authority of the British Government; such an arrangement would afford great additional security to the rich province and city of Benares, and would effectually check whatever power might remain to the Raja of Berar, or to any other Maratha chief in that quarter.

Reviewing these statements, Your Excellency will observe, that the most prosperous issue of a war against Sindhia and the Raja of Berar on the north-western frontier of Hindustan, would in my judgment comprize :—

*First.*—The destruction of the French State now formed on the banks of the Jamuna, together with all its military resources.

*Secondly.*—The extension of the Company's frontier to the Jamuna, with the possession of Agra, Delhi, and a sufficient chain of posts on the western and southern banks of the Jamuna.

*Thirdly.*—The possession of the nominal authority of the Mughal.

*Fourthly.*—The establishment of an efficient system of alliances with all the petty states to the southward and westward of the Jamuna, from Jainagar to Bundelkhand.

*Fifthly.*—The annexation of Bundelkhand to the Company's dominions.

The result of such an arrangement would destroy the influence of the French and of the Marathas in the northern districts of Hindustan, and would enable us to commence the foundation of such an intercourse with the Sikhs, and with the tribes inhabiting the Punjab and the banks of the Attock, as might furnish sufficient means of frustrating any attempt of an invading enemy from the western side of the Indus.

In stating to Your Excellency my sentiments with regard to the general plan of military operations by which the proposed objects appear to be attainable with the greatest degree of expedition and security, Your Excellency will be pleased to understand, that it is not my intention either to limit the free exercise of your discretion, or to interpose any ideas which may not meet the full approbation of Your Excellency's superior judgment, experience, and professional skill.

I have however deemed it to be my duty, under this restriction, to communicate to you in my private correspondence, such opinions on this branch of the subject as have appeared to me to merit consideration; and with the same view, I have transmitted to Your Excellency my observations on the plan which I have received from you. I shall therefore proceed to state, without further reserve, in this official form, such conclusions as I have drawn from a view of the documents and suggestions which have been brought under my examination.

The first object of the campaign must be to destroy the military force and resources of M. Perron, and it is extremely important that this object should be accomplished previously to the close of the rainy season.

It is, therefore, necessary that the main body of the army should be assembled at the point most favourable for the attack of M. Perron's force, and in the state of preparation and of equipment which may be deemed by Your Excellency most advantageous for the speedy execution of that service.

Your Excellency will have observed, from the whole tenor of every communication which you have received from me, that I not only concur entirely with you in deeming the destruction of M. Perron's force to be the primary object of the campaign, but that the most deliberate considerations of the actual state of affairs between His Majesty and France would have induced me to have undertaken this service, even independently of any contest with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

I shall, therefore, readily sanction any augmentation which Your Excellency may think fit to make to the strength of the main army to be directed against M. Perron, by suspending the operations of the several proposed detachments, or by concentrating the movements of those detachments, with a view to the principal object of the campaign which is comprized "in the early and effectual demolition of the French State erected by M. Perron on the banks of the Jamuna."

With this observation, I desire that Your Excellency will compose the main army, and regulate the strength and operations of the several detachments, in the manner which shall appear to your judgment, to afford the most absolute security for "the complete destruction of M. Perron's force previously to the conclusion of the rains."

The point of most urgent importance connected with the destruction of M. Perron's force, is, in my opinion, the security of the person of the Mughal, and of the Heir-Apparent, and it is therefore my earnest wish that early measures should be taken for that purpose. The operations for the detachment proposed to cover Rohilkhand, and eventually to invade Saharanpur, might probably effect this object, and at the same time might tend to promote the success of the movements of the main army against M. Perron.

I trust that the powers already furnished to Your Excellency for the augmentations of the regular corps to the war establishment, and for raising such temporary and local corps as may be requisite for the maintenance of the internal tranquillity of the provinces, will enable you to provide effectually against internal commotion during the continuance of the war; but every temporary inconvenience of that nature must be hazarded if the security of the great objects of the campaign should require you to incur such a danger. The early success of the army in the field will enable you to suppress, without difficulty, every effort our domestic enemies, whose number cannot be considerable and whose power is extremely contemptible.

I consider the operations of the detachment to be stationed in the direction of Delhi, to be next in importance to those of the main army.

After the destruction of M. Perron's power shall have been effected, and the person of the Mughal shall have been protected beyond the possibility of hazard, the operation of greatest importance will be the reduction of the fortress of Agra. Your Excellency will form the most correct judgment in deciding the time and mode of undertaking this service ; whether it would be possible either to blockade or to seize Agra during the time of the movement of the main army against M. Perron, or whether the siege of Agra should be postponed until the main army shall be at liberty to act against Agra, are points which I submit implicitly to Your Excellency's determination. It is, however, important that Agra should be reduced previously to the close of the rainy season.

The occupation of Bundelkhand is the object next in importance to those already stated ; and it appears to me, that the detachment to be assembled for the purpose of covering Benares, will effect that object in sufficient time to afford additional countenance to the operation of the main army.

The effectual protection of Benares is a point of considerable importance, and your Excellency appears to have taken sufficient precautions for that purpose.

It has appeared to me to be prudent to adopt a systematic and comprehensive plan of defensive measures in the whole line of the frontier, from Mirzapur to Midnapur, and I have directed the Chief Secretary to transmit to Your Excellency a copy of the orders which I have issued on that subject.

The occupation of the passes from the southward and westward of the Jamuna to the Deccan is an object which has already engaged Your Excellency's attention ; if you should be enabled to bring the main body of M. Perron's force to action, or should find it practicable to receive that force in any other manner, it appears improbable that Sindhia's troops can occupy those passes in any considerable strength.

Major-General Wellesley may be expected to commence operations against Sindhia, in the Deccan, at the close of this month, and I entertain a firm confidence of the complete success of those operations in the entire defeat of Sindhia's forces, and of those of the Raja of Berar in that quarter. It is however an object of importance, and of prudent precaution, to secure the passes between Hindustan and the Deccan previously to the close of the rains.

The expediency of occupying the post of Gwalior, previously to the defeat of M. Perron, must depend upon local circumstances, upon which your Excellency will exercise your discretion, after having considered the tenor of my instructions to Mr. Mercer.

Mr. Duncan has received my orders for the seizure of Sindhia's sea-port of Broach, and of all his other possessions in Gujrat, which objects will probably be effected whenever General Wellesley shall seize the important fortress of Ahmadnagar. The loss of these possessions will deprive Sindhia of the most efficient portion of his military resources in the Deccan.

An expedition from Calcutta and Ganjam will occupy Cuttak in the course of the month of August.

It may be reasonably expected that these combined attacks will leave no other enemy opposed to Your Excellency's force during the rainy season than M. Perron's troops, and whatever force may have been assembled at Kalpi; and I confidently expect, that before the close of the rains, a material impression will have been made on every branch of the Maratha power; it is, however, possible that M. Perron may have induced some of the Sikh chiefs to aid him by predatory incursions into the Company's northern territories, and it will therefore be necessary for Your Excellency to advert to that possible danger.

The objects proposed to be attained in this campaign, and the general plan of military operations which I have described, will limit the movement of the main army to the Doab between the Ganges and the Jamuna, with the addition of a narrow tract of country on the western and southern bank of the Jamuna.

No detachment of the army will probably be required to move beyond Gwalior before the close of the rains; it may therefore be expected that Your Excellency will not experience any considerable difficulty either in the supply or movements of the armies, and that you will be enabled, during the course of this campaign to establish such depots of provisions, stores, and other supplies, as may facilitate your advance into Berar towards the Deccan, or towards the territories of the Rajput Chiefs, if such movements should become necessary in another campaign.

Your Excellency has provided with great prudence for the maintenance of tranquillity and order within the reserved territories of His Excellency the Nawab Vazir, by leaving a respectable force in that quarter. I entirely approve that precaution, leaving it, however, to your discretion to vary the description or strength of the force stationed in the Vazir's reserved territories according to your judgment, and to the state of local circumstances.

I have written to the Vazir, desiring His Excellency's assistance in the supply of elephants, cattle; and as I have engaged to defray the whole expense of whatever assistance the Vazir may contribute,

I entertain a sanguine hope that His Excellency will be desirous of making an effort to manifest his zeal and attachment on this important occasion.

In stating these observations to Your Excellency, I have purposely avoided all details relative to the disposition of corps, to the strength of the main army, or of the several detachments; to the formation of the staff, or of the different constituent parts of the army in the field. The regulation of all questions of this description is more properly Your Excellency's peculiar duty; and I entertain the most firm confidence that Your Excellency will form your arrangements with that ability, public spirit, and honourable zeal for the service, which have distinguished your conduct in the various arduous situations to which you have been called by the confidence of your Sovereign and of your country.

With these sentiments, I am particularly anxious to abstain from any interference of my authority which might tend to contract the sphere of Your Excellency's approved talents, activity, and integrity. It will be my constant endeavour to apply my authority in such a manner as shall afford the most effectual support to Your Excellency in the display of those eminent qualifications, during a crisis which demands their unrestrained exertion, and which promises to augment the reputation and honour of Your Excellency's name, together with the glory of the British arms, and the security of the British power.

With regard to the political negotiations and arrangements connected with the operations of Your Excellency's army, I have addressed to you on this day a letter, vesting you with special powers of the same nature as those which I have entrusted to Major-General Wellesley, and eventually to Lieutenant-General Stuart in the Deccan; that letter, connected with my instructions to Mr. Mercer, and with my separate letter to Your Excellency of this date, respecting the situation of His Majesty Shah Alam, will sufficiently apprise you of the course of political measures which Your Excellency is empowered to pursue, with a view of facilitating your military operations.

It may, however, be convenient to state in this place, the general principles by which I am desirous of regulating Your Excellency's proceedings under the powers committed to your management.

It will be highly desirable to detach M. Perron from Sindhia's service by pacific negotiation. M. Perron's inclination certainly is to dispose of his power to a French purchaser; I should not be surprised if he were to be found ready to enter into terms with Your Excellency, provided he could obtain sufficient security for his personal interests. I desire Your Excellency, however, to abstain from any negotiations which may afford M. Perron the opportunity of gaining time, or of preserving



by escape or by any means, any part of his force, especially of his artillery or ordnance.

I, therefore, request Your Excellency not to commence any negotiation with M. Perron until the success of the force to be employed against him shall appear to be perfectly secure, or until you shall be fully satisfied that the negotiation cannot afford to M. Perron any means of defeating the objects of the armament.

Under these precautions, I empower Your Excellency to conclude any agreement for the security of M. Perron's personal interests and property, accompanied by any reasonable remuneration from the British government, which shall induce him to deliver up the whole of his military resources and power, together with his territorial possession, and the person of the Mughal and of the Heir-Apparent, into Your Excellency's hands.

The same principle applies generally to M. Perron's European officers; and the Proclamations with which I have furnished Your Excellency will enable you to avail yourself of the first proper opportunity of offering propositions to those officers, or to the several corps under M. Perron's command.

It is probable that the blockade of Agra would enable Your Excellency to obtain immediate possession of that place, by offering favourable terms to M. Hessing and his garrison. You will act in this manner according to your judgment.

This dispatch together with those which you have already received from me, will relieve Your Excellency from any difficulty with regard to the suspension of the question of war or peace. You are now in possession of my final determination to "reduce the power of French State in Hindustan without delay", and to liberate the neighbouring Chiefs and Rajas from the yoke of that state and of the Marathas, for the purpose of establishing an effectual barrier against the revival of a similar danger in Hindustan.

My instructions to Mr. Mercer contain every detail which can be requisite to guide Your Excellency's judgment in forming engagements with those Chiefs, either for the purpose of securing their assistance during the war, or of establishing a permanent system of alliance at the conclusion of peace.

The general objects of the war, as described at the commencement of this dispatch, sufficiently indicate the nature of the final settlement by which it is my desire to terminate hostilities, and to secure peace.

Your Excellency will be pleased to fix your attention upon those objects, as stated in the 36th paragraph of this dispatch, and to frame

every permanent arrangement with the native Chiefs and Rajas, in conformity to the general principles of extending the British influence to the borders of the Deccan ; and of engaging the petty chiefs and states to strengthen the proposed system by their aid and co-operation, under the assurance of the protection of the British arms, and of the secure and free enjoyment of their respective rights, authorities, and possessions, within the limits of their respective territories.

The principles by which Your Excellency will regulate your conduct towards the Mughal are stated in my separate dispatch of this date.

**No. 222**—Collins informs the Governor General that Ganpat Rai had left for Ujjain due to ill-health.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Jalgaor, 27th July 1803.*

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Your Excellency, copies of my official correspondence with the honorable Major-General Arthur Wellesley (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4) containing an account of my transactions with this Court, since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 23rd instant.

My agent Ganpat Rai having been greatly indisposed for some time past, in so much as to be altogether incapable of attending to business, I have been induced to comply with his desire of repairing to his family at Ujjain, for which place he set off a few days since.

**No. 223**—General Wellesley asks Collins to give an ultimatum to the two Maratha Princes to separate and withdraw immediately from the Nizam's frontier. Collins is further asked to leave Sindhia's camp in case of non-compliance so that hostilities might begin forthwith.

FROM—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY,

TO—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

*Camp at Sangwi, 29th July 1803.*

I have had the honour of receiving your letters of the 24th and 25th instant.

I am happy to observe from the tenor of the last that the confidence of that minister who has been most active in negotiating the supposed

confederacy among the Northern Maratha Chiefs, is shaken respecting the strength and power of that confederacy; and that even he is apprehensive of the consequences of a contest with the British Government. It is probable that the apprehension of this contest, which will be commenced under great advantages on our side if not delayed, is general in the Durbars of those Chiefs. But still they and their servants must feel sensibly the disgrace and disadvantage which must be the consequence of their retreat to their own territories after all these preparations for hostilities, and their boast that they would commence them. Under these impressions, it is probable that they will have promised you that they will separate and retire each to their own territories; but they may still have kept their armies in one body, and may have delayed that event, which can alone give security to the British Government for the duration of the peace. On the other hand, if they should not be sincere in their intentions of retiring, we shall lose the advantages which we possess at present for the commencement of hostilities.

If they should not have manifested their intentions to separate, and retire to their own territories, you will of course have quitted the camp according to my letter of the 18th instant, but if they should have declared that intention, and should still be joined and should have made no movement towards their own territories, or if they should delay their marches under any pretence whatever, I request you to write letters to them to inform them that I can trust them no longer and that if they do not separate on the following day, and move each towards his own territories, it is my intention to commence my operations, for which I am fully prepared: that I have such orders for the troops to approach to Broach, against which place the operations will be commenced; and that I have apprized His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the officer commanding the troops in the Ganjam district, of the present state of affairs in order that they also may be prepared to commence their operations.

You will also be so kind as to withdraw from Sindhia's camp. and you will apprise that Chief that I have made this request, in case he should not immediately separate from the Raja of Berar and should not retire towards Hindustan.

I have received a letter from Colonel Stevenson from which I observe, that having had occasion to write a letter to Gopal Bhau to desire that Chief to withdraw from the Nizam's territories he made use of an expression which is not commonly used to a person of that description; which appears to have offended Gopal Bhau. It is very certain that that Chief ought not to have entered the Nizam's territories, and that if he had not retired from them and beyond Colonel Stevenson's reach, that officer could have shown him that the British army was capable

of protecting the territories of the ally of the British Government. However, I cannot approve of the expression inadvertently used in Colonel Stevenson's letter, and I have desired that officer to take an opportunity of writing to Gopal Bhau to explain it.

It is probable that this expression may be made a subject of complaint in Sindhia's Durbar ; and I mention the circumstances in order that you may inform the ministers of the steps which have been taken in consequence of it.

**No. 224**—Collins informs General Wellesley of the details of his interview with Sindhia on July 29, and adds that Bhonsla being absent at the interview Sindhia expressed his inability to give a final reply without consulting Bhonsla. Having been convinced that Sindhia only meant to gain time, according to instructions of General Wellesley, Collins decided to leave Sindhia's camp on July 31, which decision was duly conveyed to both Sindhia and Bhonsla.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 30th July 1803.*

On the morning of the 28th instant I addressed a note to Jadu Rao Bhau requesting he would inform me what hour of that day would be most convenient and agreeable to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia to grant me the promised audience. The enclosure No. 1, contains a copy and translate of the answer of Jadu Rao Bhau to the foregoing request, and No. 2, transcripts in English and Persian of my reply to that minister.

In consequence of the intimation conveyed in No. 2, Jadu Rao Bhau appointed the afternoon of the following day for me to wait upon the Maharaja, and as I was desirous of making one more effort in order to induce Sindhia to comply with your requisition, I consented to postpone my departure, partly, from the consideration already stated, and partly, with the view of resting the responsibility upon this court in the event of hostilities.

Accordingly, I waited upon Daulat Rao Sindhia yesterday afternoon, accompanied by Captain Paris Bradshaw, and Munshi Mirza Bakar Khan. The usual servants of the Maharaja attended on this occasion. The Peshwa's vakils, Balaji Kunjar and Krishnaji Bhawani, were likewise present ; but contrary to agreement Raja Raghuji Bhonsla absented himself from this conference.

I commenced the discourse by observing on the absence of the Berar Raja whom I expected to have seen at the Durbar conformably to the promise I had received as well from the Maharaja as from Jadu Rao. I then said that no doubt Daulat Rao Sindhia was fully apprized of the sentiments of Raghuji Bhonsla with whom he had held a conference the preceding evening, consequently that I expected to be then informed of the sentiments and intentions of both those Chieftains on the subject of your requisition.

Instead of giving me any direct reply, Jadu Rao Bhau merely recapitulated the objections which he had urged at our conference on the 25th instant, against withdrawing the troops of the Maharaja and of the Berar Raja from their present position ; my replies to his objections were exactly similar to those which I had the honour to communicate to you in my letter of the 26th instant. In fact, every argument that could be adduced on this question had been already exhausted ; this I remarked to Jadu Rao, and at the same time told him that he had not brought forward a single new observation.

Sindhia's ministers then said that His Highness the Peshwa had lately deputed a vakil to the Maharaja and that it was indispensably requisite that I should be informed of the objects of his mission. I replied that I should most readily attend to any report which the vakil of His Highness might make and desired that Krishnaji Bhawani (the person alluded to) would state whatever he had to propose on the part of the Peshwa. Thus called on Krishnaji said, that he had been deputed by Rao Pandit Pradhan to apprise Daulat Rao Sindhia, and Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, of his having entered into new engagements with the British Government, to prevent their opposing the completion thereof, and to compose any differences that might have arisen between the English and those Chieftains.

When Krishnaji Bhawani had finished his discourse, I observed to Jadu Rao that the friendly intention of His Highness the Peshwa were very apparent, and that it only remained with the Maharaja, and the Berar Raja, to give them effect, by withdrawing their troops from the Nizam's frontier, in which event, all doubts would be removed and friendship firmly re-established between those Chieftains and the British Government. I further said that the honourable Major-General Wellesley's proposal by no means tended to degrade Daulat Rao Sindhia or Raghuji Bhonsla, since at the same time that he (the General) required of those Chieftains to retire with their forces to their respective countries, the honourable General Wellesley had, likewise, promised, in the event of their compliance, to withdraw his troops to their usual stations ; and in conclusion, I strongly urged both the Maharaja and Jadu Rao not suffer a trifling punctilio to be the cause of involving their Sarkar in a war.

with the British Government. But Sindhia's minister persisted in declaring that his master must again consult with the Berar Raja before he could give any decided answer to your requisition, and requested that I would defer my departure for two or three days longer. I replied, that as I, now, was satisfied this court only wanted to gain time, for some particular purpose of its own, I should be deemed inexcusable, were I to suffer myself to be further amused. But independent of this consideration, I was positively directed by the honourable General Wellesley to leave the camp of the Maharaja as soon as ever I had reason to be convinced that Daulat Rao Sindhia, and Raghuji Bhonsla, were determined to retain their present position on the frontier of the Nawab Nizam, that accordingly, on the 30th instant I should send on my *pesh-khema* and heavy baggage five *kos* on the road towards Aurangabad, and proceed myself, on my journey thither, early in the morning of the next day.

As Daulat Rao Sindhia and Jadu Rao Bhau repeatedly declared that they would not permit me to depart hence, I was obliged to explain to them, that although their opposing my departure might subject me to some inconvenience, on account of the difficulty of procuring supplies of grain, yet that they might be assured no personal consideration whatever should prevent me from paying implicit obedience to the orders of the honourable General Wellesley. After saying this I made my fairwell compliments to the Maharaja, in the most respectful manner, and immediately withdrew from the Durbar.

As the Berar Raja was not present at my last audience with Daulat Rao Sindhia, I thought it proper to apprize him of my determination to leave this camp, and accordingly did so, in a memorial of which the enclosure No. 3 contains copies in English and Persian.

My *pesh-khema* has been sent on five *kos*; I shall follow it tomorrow morning at day light, unless the Maratha Chieftains should, contrary to expectation, assure me of their resolution to comply with your requisition. But as such an assurance would be consistent with good faith, and good sense, I almost despair of receiving it. However I shall not close this letter until sunset.

No. 224A—Enclosure.

*Translate-copy of a letter from Jadu Rao Bhau to Colonel J. Collins,  
dated the 28th July, 1803.*

Your kind reply to my friendly letter with which I have been favoured has increased our friendship. With respect to your request for an answer to the points in question, and that you would repair to the Durbar

at the time I should appoint, my friend, yesterday was fixed on for Raja Raghuji Bhonsla to visit the Maharaja, but the interview was prevented by the continuance of the rain. The Raja will certainly come today, and the matter in agitation will be debated, for which reason it will not be proper for you to visit the Durbar this day. Should it be necessary for you to attend I will undoubtedly acquaint you of it, otherwise, you shall be apprized of the time that may be settled for this purpose. But today is not the 9th. [Rabi-ul-akhir]. You shall, however, have intimation sent to you of the time that may be agreed on.

**No. 224B—Enclosure.**

*Translate-copy of a letter from Colonel Collins to Jadu Rao,  
dated the 28th of July 1803.*

The friendly letter of the Maharaja, along with yours in reply to my notes, have reached me, and I comprehend their contents, which plainly manifest both indifference, and procrastination, on the part of the Durbar of the Maharaja, for on Monday it was agreed upon that on the 3rd day both Sardars, Raghuji Bhonsla and the Maharaja, would meet together, and desire my attendance, whereas the contrary has now taken place. If the Maharaja was desirous of giving me an explicit answer, it is not possible that he would again put it off till tomorrow, which is Friday. But the Maharaja has written to prohibit me from being present at the interview which is to take place this day between him and Raghuji Bhonsla; from which I conclude that it is not the intention of the Maharaja to give me an explicit answer. Besides this, it is now the 9th day since the *kharita* from the honourable General Wellesley was presented to the Maharaja; I shall, therefore, wait until 12 o'clock tomorrow for an explicit answer from the Maharaja. After that I shall send on my *pesh-khema* on the road towards Aurungabad, and take my departure from this on the following day, pursuant to the orders of the honourable General Wellesley; of this, I trust you will inform the Maharaja.

**No. 224C—Enclosure.**

*Memorial addressed to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla by Colonel Collins on the  
30th of July, 1803 and presented on the same day.*

On the 4th of Rabi-us-sani (24th July) a memorial was delivered to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla on the part of Colonel Collins of which the enclosure is a copy. Raja Raghuji Bhonsla acknowledged the receipt of this memorial in a note to Colonel Collins, dated the same day, in which the Raja informed the Colonel that the answer to this memorial depended

on a meeting between him and Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, and that after they should have met, and personally discussed the subject of it, a reply would then certainly be committed to writing. On the 6th of Rabi-us-sani (26th July) Colonel Collins sent a letter to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, written by the honorable General Wellesley, and addressed to the Raja. This letter was accompanied by a note from the Colonel, in which he requested that Raja Raghuji would return a speedy and proper answer to it. But the Raja has not to this hour replied to that note, or to the letter of General Wellesley, although Shridhar Pant immediately acknowledged to Mirza Bakar Khan the receipt of both those papers. On the 8th of Rabi-us-sani, Raja Raghuji Bhonsla had a conference with Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, and notwithstanding the Maharaja had promised to give Colonel Collins a distinct reply to the requisition of the honorable General Wellesley on that day, in the presence of Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, yet Jadu Rao Bhau the chief minister of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, apprized the Colonel that it would not be proper for him to attend on that occasion. Yesterday Colonel Collins had an audience of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, when the Colonel expected to receive a satisfactory answer to the requisition of the honorable General Wellesley, but Jadu Rao Bhau stated numberless objections to the measure of withdrawing the troops of the Maharaja from their present position on the frontier of the Nawab Nizam, and although Colonel Collins required a definitive reply to the requisition of General Wellesley, and declared that if it were not then given, he (the Colonel) should send off his *pesh-khema*, and baggage, the next day, and proceed himself towards Aurangabad early in the morning of the 11th of Rabi-us-sani, yet Jadu Rao Bhau insisted that no determinate reply could be given to the letter of General Wellesley until the Maharaja had held another conference with Raja Raghuji Bhonsla; Colonel Collins then explained that he had been directed by the hon'ble General Wellesley to leave the camp of Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, should the Colonel perceive that the Maharaja and the Raja of Berar were determined not to comply with his (the General's) requisition, and that in consequence of the refusal of Jadu Rao Bhau to give a direct answer thereto, Colonel Collins should certainly send off his *pesh-khema* the next day, and proceed early in the morning of the 11th Rabi-us-sani towards Aurangabad.

Colonel Collins deems it necessary to recapitulate the foregoing particulars, in order that Raja Raghuji Bhonsla may be fully apprized that the Colonel cannot, without being guilty of disobedience of orders, remain longer than tomorrow morning in the camp of Maharaja Daulat Rao, unless the Colonel should receive assurances, in the intermediate time, from Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, and from the Maharaja of their intentions to comply with the requisition of the honorable General Wellesley.

In conclusion Colonel Collins requests an immediate answer to this memorial, a copy of which will be sent to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia.



**No. 225**—General Wellesley expresses his anxiety for the fort of Songarh, severely criticises the conduct of Captain Bates, and requests the Governor of Bombay to see that Songarh is immediately well-provisioned and equipped.

FROM—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Camp at Ruy on the S'na, 31st July 1803.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Close has communicated to me the letters from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay of the 17th and 23rd instant, with their enclosures, and I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 23rd instant.

I shall take an early opportunity of replying to the letter; but I now think it proper to address you upon some subjects to which the enclosures in the former relate.

I observe that by the proceedings of the Committee at Surat of the 15th instant, nothing had been done till that day towards throwing into Songarh supplies of provisions or ammunition. Reference had been made to European and native officers, but no decided step had been taken.

It appears that the garrison which Lieutenant Colonel Callander had proposed to allot to that place, is to be 150 European troops and 100 native troops, and it appears that the Committee have information, upon which they place reliance, that there are no provisions whatever for this force. It surely requires no reference to find out the quantity of provisions which it will be necessary to place in Songarh for the use of the description and numbers of troops, for any given number of months; and long before the meeting of the 15th instant, the provisions for those small bodies might have been sent off.

I also observe, that the Committee are disposed to attend to the report upon the state of the ordnance and ammunition at Songarh, although they have taken no measures to remedy the inconveniences which he has reported.

They ought, at all events, to have taken measures to supply the deficiencies of musket ammunition and ordnance carriages which they believe existed, and it might be proper to send an officer of the engineers or artillery, or any one who might be supposed to be qualified to give an opinion, to examine this fort, and to report particularly on its state.

I advert to this circumstance particularly, because it is my opinion, that the fort of Songharh is most important for the defence of the *Atthavisi*, and for the security of Surat itself.

I have also to observe upon the minute of Lieutenant-Colonel Callander upon the subject of the retreat of Captain Bates ; I am not certain in what part of the country that officer was stationed, or whether he falls under my command, according to the orders of His Excellency the Governor General ; if he should be so, I request to have all the documents upon the subject, and if I find there are grounds for it, I shall order a general court-martial to enquire into Captain Bates' conduct.

If you should be of opinion that he is not under my command, I beg leave to recommend to you to have an enquiry into his conduct.

I advert to this circumstance particularly, because it has been reported in a manner very disadvantageous to the credit and honour of the British arms in this country ; and I considered if of so much importance, that I took the trouble of tracing the report to its source, and was on the point of bringing to trial the officer who had reported, as I supposed, without foundation, so disgraceful an occurrence.

I have persued the letter from the *kiledar* of Songarh of the 19th instant, and I beg you to inform him, that provided he and the family of Nana Fadnavis give no assistance to the enemies of the Peshwa or of the British Government, and he pays the accustomed obedience to the Peshwa's orders, they shall receive no molestation.

**No. 226**—Having been detained in the camp of Sindhia due to heavy rains, Collins acceded to the requests of Sindhia and Bhonsla to meet them in the afternoon of July 31. Collins informs General Wellesley of the various propositions put forth by the Maratha Princes, the last one of which is referred to the General. Collins finally adds that he would leave the camp of Sindhia the instant the roads became passable.

FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY.

*Camp near Jalgaon, 1st August 1803.*

I little thought that I should have the honor of addressing you again from the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia, but the very heavy incessant rains which have fallen since I wrote to you on the 30th ultimo, rendered it impossible for me to proceed on my journey.

About 4 o'clock yesterday morning Captain Lyons who commands my escort came to my tent and stated, that in consequence of the great quantity of rain which had fallen since 11 o'clock the preceding night, the roads were become impassable for guns. Although I was perfectly satisfied of the justness of this representation, yet I deemed it necessary, for your information, to desire Captain Lyons to address an official report to me, on this subject in writing, which he accordingly did, and I have now the honor to enclose it (No. 1).

On the 30th ultimo at 10 o'clock at night Daulat Rao Sindhia sent me a note, a copy and translate of which (No. 2) I, herewith, forward. At the time when I received it the weather had cleared up, and I had not a doubt of being able to march on the following morning. I, therefore, told the person who brought the note from the Maharaja, that I would reply to it the next day, after my arrival at Tondapur, to which place my *pesh-khema*, and baggage, had been sent, and where they still remain.

Having, however, been necessarily detained here the whole of yesterday, and Raja Raghuji Bhonsla having preferred a request similar to that contained in the note from Daulat Rao Sindhia (No. 2), I conceived it might be giving those Chiefs an advantage were I to refuse the interview which they, so pressingly, solicited, and in this idea I returned an assenting answer. The enclosure (No. 3) contains a copy and translate of my reply to both Chieftains.

I arrived at the tent of the Berar Raja at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, but not without considerable difficulty, on account of the extreme heaviness of the roads. Captain Paris Bradshaw, and Mirza Bakar Khan, attended me on this occasion, and I was received with great politeness, as well by Sindhia as by Raghuji Bhonsla, in the fullest Durbar that I have yet seen.

Although our conference lasted more than four hours, yet as the arguments, on the part of the Maratha ministers, contained no new matter whatever, and as my replies were, of course, the same as I had so often given at our former interview, I will not trouble you with a repetition thereof, but proceed to state the propositions that were made to me by Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhonsla, after numberless evasions, and much disagreeable altercation.

*1st Proposition.*—That the united forces of the Maharaja and the Berar Raja should retire to Burhanpur, and that the honourable General Wellesley should withdraw the Company's troops to their usual stations. This proposition I rejected as altogether inadmissible, in as much as it was in opposition both to the letter and spirit of your requisition, which demanded that Daulat Rao Sindhia should recross the Narbada and the Berar Raja return to Nagpur. As this proposal was strongly contested on their part, I said at length, that if Raghuji Bhonsla would repair to his own capital, and Sindhia to Burhanpur, I would not, in such case, leave the camp of the Maharaja until I received your further instructions. But this concession did not satisfy those Chieftains, who then introduced a second proposition, namely :—

*2nd Proposition.*—That I should fix on a day for their marching hence, with their respective forces, and at the same time pledge myself that the honorable General Wellesley should withdraw his troops on the precise

day that they moved towards their usual stations. I replied that you required, in the first instance, the removal of the Maratha armies from their present menacing position on the frontier of our ally the Nawab Nizam, and exclusively of this consideration, I observed that as the political and military authorities were vested in the honorable General Wellesley, I could not be responsible for the execution of any measure, but such as the hon'ble General had particularized in his instructions to me, and in his letters to Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raja Raghuji Bhonsla. This remark produced their third and last proposition and from which they positively declared they would not recede.

*3rd Proposition.*—That Sindhia and the Bhonsla would propose to the honorable General Wellesley by letter, that he should specify some particular day for withdrawing his own armies, and for the removal of theirs from their present position on the Nizam's frontier, and that on the day so specified, they would, assuredly, commence their march. These Chieftains further said that they would, also, request of the hon'ble General Wellesley, in the same letter, to name the time when the forces under his command might be expected to reach their usual stations, and that they (Sindhia and the Bhonsla) would so regulate their marches as to arrive at their usual stations precisely at the same period of time.

I objected to this proposal on the ground of its being different, in one particular, from your requisition, which demanded, in the first instance, the removal of the Maratha armies from the Nizam's frontier. But as Sindhia's ministers declared that unless you consented to this proposition, their Prince could not retire without an indelible stain on his honor, and as the servants of the Berar Raja maintained the same sentiments with great firmness, I at last agreed to refer the point in question to your consideration, and to remain with the Maharaja until I receive your determination on this proposition, provided letters to your address were sent to me for transmission before noon, on the following day, and provided those letters were expressed conformably with the terms which they had then proposed. Here the conference ended and I took my leave after the usual compliments of *attar* and *pan*.

It rained during the whole of yesterday, and until the present hour, which is 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Whatever, therefore, may be the line of conduct pursued by the Maratha Chieftains with respect to the proposed letters to your address, it will be utterly impracticable for me to proceed towards Aurangabad until an interval of fair weather, as well on account of the heavy roads, as of the overflowing of a *nallah* about midway between this, and Tondapur.

I have just received a letter to your address from Raja Raghuji Bhonsla, in which this Chief proposes to retire to Burhanpur with Daulat Rao Sindhia, instead of returning to Nagpur conformably to the proposition

that his own minister Shridhar Pant first brought forward. I am too much accustomed to Maratha tergiversations to be surprised at the disingenuous conduct of the Berar Raja on the present occasion, but I must confess that I feel extremely hurt at my inability to leave the camp of the Maharaja this very day. I have acknowledged the receipt of the Bhonsla's *kharita*, and told him, that I should march from this place the instant that the roads were passable.

P.S.—I have the honor to enclose the Bhonsla's letter.

**No. 226A—Enclosure.**

*Report of Captain Danie Lyons, commanding the escort, submitted to Colonel Collins, the Resident with Sindhia, Camp near Jalgaon, 31st July 1803.*

Since issuing the order for the march of the escort the fall of rain has been so constant as to render it necessary to apprise you of the total impracticability of bringing on the guns, owing to the present state of the weather, while the weight of the camp equipage of the detachment, being rendered double by the wet, must, from the nature of the road, occasion the loss of some and the disabling of most of the Company's camels.

From the report of my *harkarahs*, I find there are two *nallahs* between this and the next ground, so swoollen by the rain as to become wholly impassable.

I deem it my duty to mention this circumstance to you, that you may judge of the propriety of postponing the march until tomorrow, in the hope that the abatement of the rain may render the ground more practicable for the camels to travel, as well as that in this interval the water in the *nallahs* may have run off.

**No. 226B—Enclosure.**

*Translate-copy of a letter from Daulat Rao Sindhia to Colonel John Collins, received at 10 o'clock on the night of the 31th July, 1803.*

I have received your letter together with a copy of your address to Sena Saheb Subah Bahadur and thoroughly understand the contents of both.

In consequence of the haste with which you require an answer, and urge your departure, Sena Saheb Subah Bahadur came today to my tent where we had an interview. I shall return Sena Saheb Bahadur's visit at

12 o'clock tomorrow, on which day, do you, also, repair to his tent when only six *gharis* of day-light shall remain, that we may, in the presence of each other, discourse of whatever is to be discussed. It is not proper for you to hurry your march. Do not depart but come tomorrow at the time appointed to the tents of Sena Saheb Suba Bahadur. Your going off with such expedition is repugnant to good sense.

*N.B.*—Raja Raghuji Bhonsla addressed a letter exactly to the above purport, to Colonel Collins, which was received at 3 o'clock in the morning of the 31st of July, 1803.

**No. 226C—Enclosure.**

*Copy of a Note from Colonel Collins to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia.  
Presented to the Maharaja at 6 o'clock in the morning of the  
31st of July, 1803.*

I have received your favour, and understand its contents. In obedience to the command of the honourable General Wellesley, it was my positive determination to march hence early this morning, but Captain Lyons, the Commanding Officer of my escort, having represented to me that the road was impassable for guns on account of the heavy rains, I am necessarily obliged to halt here today. It is my chief wish to preserve the relations of friendship which have so long subsisted between the two states, and this accident affords me an opportunity of complying with your desire of meeting me at the tent of Raghuji Bhonsla this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

*N.B.*—A note nearly to the same purport was likewise written to Raja Raghuji Bhonsla by Colonel Collins.

**No. 226D—Enclosure.**

*Letter from Raja Raghuji Bhonsla addressed to Major-General  
A. Wellesley, handed to Colonel Collins on 1st August, and  
received by General Wellesley on 6th August 1803.*

After compliments. I have received your letter (here the contents of the honourable Major-General Wellesley's letter are recapitulated); and from the Colonel's verbal communications, I have been further assured of your friendship. No doubt, where the foundations of unity and amity have so long subsisted, they must be firm and solid, and there can be no apprehension or suspicion admitted between parties so connected. By the blessing of God, both armies are to this moment on their own territories, and no aggression or excesses have been committed on the countries of His Highness the Nizam; however, to satisfy your mind,

and to dispel your alarms, it has been resolved upon, in the presence of Colonel Collins, that the armies now encamped here shall retire towards Burhanpur, on condition that the armies now assembled here, and those of the English Government and the Nizam, shall commence their retreat upon the same date, and that each of the armies shall arrive at their usual stations on a date previously settled; that is, that the armies of the English and of the Nizam, now encamped near Aurangabad, the army of the English encamped near the Krishna, and you also with your army, shall all march towards their stations on the same date that the armies move from this encampment; and on the same date that all the different armies reach their respective stations at Madras, Seringapatam, and Bombay, Sindhia and myself will reach Burhanpur. In this manner has it been agreed and settled in the presence of Colonel Collins and I have written it for your information.

It was written in your letter that the English Government and the Peshwa would never destroy the relations and engagements that have long subsisted between the Peshwa, me, Sindhia, and the other Sardars of the Maratha Empire.

This assurance has made me most happy and tends to confirm friendship; Colonel Collins, will satisfy you farther upon this subject. Continue to write accounts of your health.

*N.B.*—The letter from Sindhia is verbatim the same as that from Raja Raghuji Bhonsla. It was received by Colonel Collins on 2nd August and reached General Wellesley on 6th August 1803.

**No. 227**—General Wellesley expresses his inability to spare any European troops for Trincomali, and adds that with the arrival of a detachment of the Royal Artillery there will be no need for them any more.

**FROM—A. WELLESLEY,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.**

*Camp, 2nd August 1803.*

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 28th July, in which you have inclosed the copy of a letter of the 1st July from His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon, in which His Excellency desires to have from Surat the assistance of a regiment of European infantry.

You will have observed from my late correspondence with Colonel Collins, copies of which have been transmitted to you, that the question of peace or war with the northern Maratha Chiefs is not yet decided; if there should be a war there are not more troops in Gujrat and the districts depending upon Surat, than are absolutely necessary for their defence; and if there should be peace, as some time will elapse before the

large Maratha armies which are now collected upon the frontier will disperse, and as in obedience to the order of His Excellency the Governor General, it will be necessary to observe the designs of the French upon Daman, and to have the means of preventing them from carrying them into execution, I conceive that you ought not to weaken your forces in that quarter.

I am very sensible of the importance of Trincomali, and regret the misfortunes which have endangered the safety of that place ; but I observe, that a very large detachment of the Royal artillery had arrived there, with which event it is probable that His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon had not been acquainted when he wrote to you on the 1st of July, as that reinforcement, in fact, makes the garrison stronger in European troops than it was before the detachment of the 19th Regiment marched upon the expedition to Kandi ; I have also heard through private channels, that the Malay troops did not desert to the enemy as was first reported, but that finding the officer determined to lay down his arms, and being aware of the treachery and cruelty of the Kandians, they expected the disastrous consequences which followed, and fled to the jungles, and that several of them had since arrived with their arms at Trincomali. If this account should be true, that garrison, reinforced as it has been by the detachment of the Royal artillery, will be in no danger.

**No. 228**—General Wellesley gives in detail his own plans for the defence of Gujrat and the districts depending on Surat. He notes the disposition and distribution of troops in those districts and also points out the means of subsistence for them. He stresses the need for securing the support of the Bhils.

FROM—A. WELLESLEY,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Camp at Walki, 2nd August 1803.*

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 23rd July ; and having taken into consideration the measures to be adopted for the defence of Gujrat, and of the districts depending upon Surat, I proceed to detail my ideas upon that subject.

The line for which a defence is to be provided extends from the marsh which divides Cutch from Gujrat to Parnera, across several large rivers, and the countries which it is to cover are liable to be attacked by different enemies, operating at the same time from different quarters.



The forces allotted for the defence of these countries, are, of rank and file :—

				Eur.	Nat.
Artillery	..	.. Surat	.. 78		
		Gujrat	.. 110		
			<hr/>	188	
Gun Lascars	..	.. Surat	.. 139		
		Gujrat	.. 200		
			<hr/>		339
61st Regiment	..	.. Surat	.. 45		
		Gujrat	.. 109		
			<hr/>	154	
65th	..	.. Surat	.. 763	763	
75th	..	.. Do.	.. 573	573	
84th	..	.. Do.	.. 272	272	
86th	..	.. Gujrat	.. 815	815	
88th	..	.. Surat	.. 148	148	
1st Battn. 1st Regt.	..	Gujrat	.. 625		625
2nd Battn. 1st Regt.	..	Do.	.. 697		697
1st Battn. 6th Regt.	..	.. Surat	.. 1,218		
		Gujrat	.. 101		
			<hr/>		1,319
2nd Battn. 6th Regt.	..	Gujrat	.. 763		763
2nd Battn. 7th Regt.	..	Do.	.. 696		696
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				2,913	4,439

making a total of rank and file, including sick, of two thousand nine hundred and thirteen Europeans, and four thousand four hundred and thirty-nine Natives.

Besides these troops, Raja Anand Rao, I conclude, has a body of cavalry, with the number of which I am unacquainted, and possibly some infantry.

It appears by a paper drawn up by Colonel Reynolds, which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Close, that the districts depending upon Surat can be entered by an army from the eastward only by the road which leads by Songarh.

There are other *ghats* but they are not practicable for wheel-carriages ; and the whole range of mountains is in the possession of Bhils, whose exertions would prevent the invasion of any party of marauding horse.

This fact points out the necessity of cultivating a good understanding with, and encouraging the Bhils, so as to attach them to our cause.

When that object will have been attended to, there will remain to provide for the roads into the districts depending upon Surat, from the Peshwa's districts to the southward, and from the eastward by Songarh.

It appears by the papers transmitted by Colonel Reynolds, that there is no passage for an army coming from the eastward through the Satpuda hills, between the rivers Tapti and Narbada, excepting by skirting the province of Malwa ; but as far as I can learn, the country is open north of the river Narbada.

Besides these principal passages into these districts, which are to be defended, it appears that the following objects are to be provided for :

- 1st. The security of Surat.
- 2nd. A garrison for Baroda.
- 3rd. A garrison for Cambay.
- 4th. A garrison for Kaira.
- 5th. A garrison for Kurrah.
- 6th. Eventually a garrison for Broach.

Garrisons are also required for Songarh on the eastern frontier, and Parnera on the southern, in order to guard those inlets into the districts south of the Tapti.

It is my opinion that the troops in the districts under Surat, and those in the districts under Anand Rao, ought to be placed under one commanding officer, whose head quarters ought to be at Surat ; they ought all to be liable to be moved from one district to the other, according as he might find it necessary for the security of any part from impending invasion.

From the topographical description of the country received from Colonel Reynolds, to which I have above alluded, it is obvious that the armies which may invade Gujrat, and the districts depending upon Surat, can penetrate either from the northward of the Narbada, or the southward

of the Tapti by Songarh only. It is very improbable that a serious invasion will be made from both quarters at the same time. The Chief most likely to invade those territories has not forces sufficient to form two armies, either of them capable of meeting the disposable force in the districts, when joined by Raja Anand Rao's cavalry. Whenever a serious invasion therefore is made, it will be by a large army in the quarter, and by light plundering parties in the other. But if there is one commanding authority in the districts, he cannot be without intelligence of the force and disposition of the enemy's troops; and before the enemy can pass round the Satpuda hills, he can make a disposition of all the troops to repel the northern or the southern invasion, according to his intelligence of the enemy's disposition.

In my opinion, therefore, the following arrangement ought to be made :

1st. One officer of rank ought to be appointed to command in the *athhavis* and Gujrat. Lieutenant-Colonel Woodington may still command the troops immediately north of the Narbada, under such officer.

2ndly. The works of the castle of Surat ought to be put in a state of repair. If the castle of Surat is in such a position as that it is commanded by the neighbouring grounds, it ought to be destroyed, and field works to be erected in a commanding situation, without loss of time, for the defence of the troops allotted for the security of that important city :

A detachment of artillery, rank and file	..	30	
The 75th Regiment	..	573	
The 1st Battalion 6th Regiment	..	500	1103

ought to be the troops allotted for the security of Surat.

3rdly. The garrison of Baroda ought to be :

Artillery	..	20	
The detachment of the 61st	..	154	
A detachment of the 88th	..	100	254
and the 2nd battalion 7th Regiment	..	696	970

giving detachments as hereafter stated, to other garrisons, and leaving 411 native infantry in Baroda.

4th. The garrison of Cambay ought to be, as at present, 25 rank and file, from the 2nd of the 7th at Baroda.

5th. The garrison at Kaira ought to be 3 artillery men, and 100 rank and file, as at present, from the 2nd of the 7th at Baroda.

6th. The garrison at Kurrah, 60 rank and file, as at present, from the 27th at Baroda.

7th. The garrison for Broach, eventually 48 rank and file of the 88th, 12 artillery, and 100 rank and file from the 2nd of the 7th at Baroda.

8th. The garrison of Songarh ought to be 12 rank and file, artillery ; 100 rank and file of the 84th ; and 100 rank and file of the 1st Battalion 6th Regiment.

9th. The garrison of Parnera ought to be 12 rank and file artillery ; 172 rank and file of the 84th ; and 200 rank and file 1st Battalion 6th.

I do not see the advantage of the posts in Dholka and Gogo, or at Rampore, or of the small detachments situated in the returns in any of the places in the districts ceded by the Peshwa. The officer appointed to command will, however, be the best judge upon this subject, and will post detachments in those places, if he should think it proper ; these small detachments are ruinous to the discipline and spirit of the troops ; they weaken the corps to such a degree, that they are unfit for service in the field, and they answer no adequate purpose. In my opinion, in time of war, and particularly in such a war as one with the Marathas, it would be best to authorize the collectors to raise *Sebandi* troops for these services ; the expenses would be but trifling, and in fact cannot bear a comparison with the benefit which must be derived from the measure.

In all parts of India, particularly in those territories which have belonged to the Marathas, there is a numerous class of people, whose only occupation and only mode of procuring subsistence has been the military service. This class is usually entirely deprived of subsistence by the transfer of the government of those countries to the Company, and they are driven to seek for it either into rebellion at those moments when the British troops are engaged in foreign wars, or in the armies of our enemies ; these they are ready to lead into our districts, with all the knowledge derived from long residence and service within them, and they become in fact our most dangerous enemies.

The employment of those people at such time as *Sebandi* is advantageous, therefore, not only as it saves the regular troops, and gives a larger body of troops for field service, and prevents the loss of their discipline, but because it lessens the number of idle and discontented at the

time of general invasion and confusion, and that of our most dangerous enemies.

Having thus provided for the principal garrison and stations in Gujrat, and the districts depending upon Surat, there will remain for service in the field :—

Artillery .. .. .	99
65th Regiment .. .. .	763
86th Regiment .. .. .	815
1st Battn. 1st Regt. .. .. .	625
2nd Battn. 1st Regt. .. .. .	697
1st Battn. 6th Regt. .. .. .	519
2nd Battn. 6th Regt. .. .. .	763

These corps ought to be divided into two detachments, one consisting of 50 artillery, the 86th Regiment, and two native battalions, to be stationed in a convenient situation north of the Narbada, and in front of Baroda ; the other, consisting of the 49 artillery, the 65th Regiment, and two native battalions ; and one south of the Tapti, between Surat and Songarh.

In the cantonments with these two detachments ought to be the necessary proportion of ordnance and stores ; viz. 2 six-pounders for each corps, and a twelve-pounder and 2 five and half inch howitzers, for each detachment. Camp equipage for these detachments ought to be in readiness in Baroda and Surat.

In case the commanding officer should receive intelligence that an invasion was threatened to the northward, he would move the southern detachment across the rivers Tapti and Narbada, and collect all his troops in the quarter, excepting one battalion, which he might leave at Songarh to operate upon the enemy's marauding parties, if the Bhils should be friendly, and should have engaged to stop the passage by the other *ghats* ; or to be thrown into Surat, to reinforce that garrison, if they should not.

On the other hand, if he should be obliged from circumstances to bring the northern detachment to the southward, he might leave one battalion to reinforce the garrison of Baroda, and to operate with Raja Anand Rao's horse, upon the enemy's marauding parties who might attempt to penetrate in the absence of the detachment.

In this manner, and by bringing forward Raja Anand Rao's horse and infantry, there would be a disposable force for the field purposes in these districts, which in the most essential parts of a British army, viz. British soldiers, would be stronger than that at present under my immediate command, and which, with the aid of Anand Rao's horse, and supported by the strong places, would in that country be equal to anything that could be brought against it.

I have also to observe, that under this arrangement, all the principal points in the country are secured.

It is true, that in the absence of the detachment from either the northern or the southern division, that in which there are no troops is in some degree liable to be injured by marauding horse. That is an evil which cannot be entirely avoided, so long as the British armies are composed entirely of infantry, and those of the enemy of cavalry; but if the forts in the country are kept up, and in times of war the *Sebandi* of the country are hired and paid, even that evil must be of short duration, as it is well known, that no number of horse can find their way into a fort without the assistance of guns.

Having thus considered the disposition and distribution of the troops in these districts, it is proper that I should advert to their means of subsistence.

It is my opinion, that when the commanding officer should have reason to believe that he will have occasion to employ these troops in the field, sufficient carriages for one month's provisions ought immediately to be provided for them; besides this carriage, magazines ought to be formed, and always ready, at Parnera, Songarh, Surat, Cambay or Broach, Baroda, Kaira, and Kurrah, of all those species of provisions and stores required for the troops, which might be scarce in the country in case of invasion, particularly arrack and biscuit for the Europeans, and rice for the natives.

These would be necessary even for defensive operations; those of an offensive nature would require different measures, and more extensive arrangement, which must be ordered at the time when those operations are in contemplation.

This arrangement, when carried into execution, will be applicable to all purposes, will put the troops in the Gujrat and *Atthavisi* in a state and shape for service, and I shall know how to avail myself of their services in the course of the campaign; accordingly I request, if you should approve of it, that you will give orders that it may be carried into execution as soon as possible.

As His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to give orders in his letter to you of the 9th July, that the troops in those districts should be placed under my command, I imagine that Major-General Jones will return to Bombay ; and as it will be necessary that the officer who will have the extensive charge should be one of character, capacity, and rank, upon reference to the list of the Bombay army, I should think that Sir William Clarke and Colonel Murray are the most fit for such an employment.

The former already fills a situation from which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to relieve him immediately ; and if you approve of the latter, I should recommend him.

When he will undertake this important charge, it will be necessary that he should have the full confidence of government, all the military power that they can give him, for the exercise of which he should be responsible to them and the Commander-in-Chief, and therein supported on all occasions.

He ought to be desired to attend to the requisition of the Resident at Baroda, and of the civil authority of Surat, as far as circumstances will permit him, but as his attention will be entirely engrossed by his military duties, and by the defence of the countries committed to his charge, it does not appear to me to be necessary that he should belong to the Committee or Commission at Surat, or that he should be troubled with their civil duties.

On the other hand, they all have nothing to do with his duties, excepting to make requisitions upon him for military assistance when they may require it.

I cannot conclude this letter without requesting that you will urge the gentlemen at Surat to keep on terms with the Bhils ; these appear to be a race of the same description with those which inhabit the hills in all part of India. By conciliation, and refraining from an interference with their concerns, they will prove our best friends, and a contrary line of conduct will make them our worst enemies ; it must not be expected that we should involve ourselves in the affairs of these Bhils or press them for tribute. The number of troops I have above detailed will be sufficient for the protection of the valuable territory of which you have got possession ; they will not be sufficient for the subjection even of one of their Rajas ; and from what I have seen of the service in other parts of India, I have no hesitation in declaring my opinion, that as a measure of

economy, it would be better to give up all claims of tribute that the Company might have upon any of these Rajas, than to receive it at the risk of the expense of being obliged to enforce its payment at some future day.

**No. 229**—Campbell is appointed to the command of the force that is being sent to conquer and occupy the province of Cuttack. He is given general instructions regarding the policy to be adopted for the settlement of the conquered territories; special instructions are given in respect of the temple at Jagannath and the pilgrims visiting it.

**FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,**

**TO—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CAMPBELL.**

*Fort William, 3rd August 1803.*

You have been apprized, by my Military Secretary, of my general views and intentions with respect to the occupation of the province of Cuttack.

You have been informed that a force will be detached from Bengal to act under your command, together with the force which you may be enabled to collect from the Northern Sarkars, in consequence of the orders signified to you by my Military Secretary. The force from Bengal will embark in the course of a day or two, and I have directed returns of it to accompany these instructions.

You are directed to assemble at Ganjam, from the division of the army under your command; a force of not less than fifteen hundred native infantry, and to increase that force, if practicable, consistently with the tranquillity of the Northern Sarkars.

With the force which you have assembled under those orders, and with the detachment from Bengal, you will enter the province of Cuttack, and proceed to Jagannath.

In passing the frontier of the Maratha territory, you will use every possible means to conciliate the inhabitants, for which purpose you will issue the proclamation which accompanies this dispatch; you will also promise protection to the persons and property of all those who shall remain in their possessions, and shall not attempt to act against the British authority, declaring that no person shall be molested except such as may appear in arms.



The situation of the pilgrims passing to and from Jagannath will require your particular attention ; you will be careful to afford them the most ample protection, and to treat them with every mark of consideration and kindness.

On your arrival at Jagannath, you will employ every possible precaution to preserve the respect due to the Pagoda, to the religious prejudices of the Brahmins and pilgrims. You will furnish the Brahmins with such guards as shall afford perfect security to their persons, rites, and ceremonies, and to the sanctity of the religious edifices ; and you will strictly enjoin those under your command to observe your orders on this important Subject, with the utmost degree of accuracy and vigilance.

The Brahmins are supposed to derive considerable profits from the duties levied on pilgrims, it will not therefore be advisable, at the present moment, to interrupt the system which prevails for the collection of those duties ; any measures calculated to relieve the exactions to which pilgrims are subjected by the rapacity of the Brahmins, would necessarily tend to exasperate the persons whom it must be our object to conciliate. You will therefore signify to the Brahmins, that it is not your intention. to disturb the actual system of collections at the Pagoda. At the same time you will be careful not to contract with the Brahmins any engagements which may limit the power of the British Government to make such arrangements with respect to that Pagoda, or to introduce such a reform of existing abuses and vexations, as may hereafter be deemed advisable.

You will assure the Brahmins at the Pagoda of Jagannath, that they will not be required to pay any other revenue or tribute to the British Government, than that which they may have been in the habit of paying to the Maratha Government, and that they will be protected in the exercise of their religious duties.

In every transaction relative to the Pagoda of Jagannath, you will consult the Civil Commissioner whom I have named for the settlement of the province of Cuttack.

You will understand that no part of the property, treasure, or valuable articles of any kind, contained in the Pagoda of Jagannath, or in any religious edifice, or possessed by any of the priests or Brahmins, or persons of any description attached to the temples or religious institutions, is to be considered as prize to the army. All such property must be respected as being consecrated to religious use, or by the customs or prejudices of the Hindus. No account is to be taken of any such

property, nor is any person to be allowed to enter the Pagodas or sacred buildings, without the express desire of the Brahmins.

You will leave a sufficient force in the vicinity of Jagannath, under the command of an officer whom you will particularly select, and in whom you can place perfect reliance, for the due execution of the directions contained in these instructions.

You will then proceed to the town and fort of Cuttack, in the reduction of which place the same precautions are to be employed for the prevention of plunder and for preserving the inhabitants from all violence and oppression. You will employ similar precautions in your march throughout the country. In order to form the basis of rules for the conduct of your army during its progress, my Military Secretary has been directed by me to forward a memorandum, to which I desire to point your special attention.

You will endeavour to open an immediate communication with Midnapore and Jellalore, at the earliest practicable moment.

It is desirable to establish posts at Ballasore, and from thence to Jellalore, for the purpose of ensuring the line of communication with Bengal.

You will afford the most vigilant and effectual protection to the dak peons and to the dak *chaukis*, and you will use every endeavour to secure a free intercourse between Cuttack and your army, and also with Ganjam; your first object should be to secure the free and safe passage of the dak.

You are at liberty to detain the ships which convey the troops to Ganjam.

In establishing your posts at Jagannath and Cuttack, you will use the necessary precautions to secure your army against any surprise from the side of Nagpur. It is my intention, as soon as I shall learn the intelligence of your arrival at Cuttack, to detach in a force of no less than 200 sepoys by sea to occupy Ballasore, and I shall also strengthen the post of Jellalore, whence, as soon as the season shall admit, I propose to direct a battalion of sepoys to advance into the province of Cuttack, and to join your army.

I have selected Captain Blunt, of the Bengal Engineers, to act as engineer and surveyor on the present service, as he has surveyed the province of Cuttack, and possesses much local information. I refer you to Captain Blunt for detailed information respecting the route from Ganjam

to Cuttack ; in the meanwhile my Military Secretary is directed to transmit to you a map of the road, according to the best and most recent authorities.

I have reason to believe that a considerable proportion of the province of Cuttack is occupied by chieftains or Zamindars, who have been enabled by the weakness of the Maratha Government to render themselves independent of the Maratha power, or who yield to it a partial obedience. Considerable tracts of country contiguous to that province, are also possessed by chieftains who acknowledge no superior authority, or who are merely tributary to the Maratha State. I deem it necessary that such of those chieftains or Zamindars as are subjects of the Maratha Government, and have revolted, should be required to acknowledge subjection to the British power ; with other chieftains who may possess the means of embarrassing your progress, it may be advisable to negotiate engagements on terms favourable to their interests, without requiring their absolute submission to the British authority.

I have appointed Mr. J. Melville to be Commissioner for the affairs of Cuttack. The object of this appointment is to provide in the most effectual manner, for the speedy settlement of the revenues of the province of Cuttack, and to afford you the aid of a civil officer of government in conducting any negotiations with the officers and subjects of the government of Berar, or with any of the independent chieftains of the province of Cuttack.

I have furnished Mr. Melville with special instructions with respect to the settlement of the revenues of the country, and I direct that you afford him every assistance which he may require to enable him to carry my instructions into effect. I have also vested Mr. Melville with the powers to conduct, in concert with you, any negotiations of the nature described in the 20th paragraph of this despatch.

You will take every necessary precaution for the regular supply of provisions for your detachment and you are hereby authorized to purchase whatever cattle and grain you may deem necessary.

The collector of Ganjam will be authorized to make to you any advances of money, on the public account, which may be required.

You will correspond regularly with my Military Secretary, or with the Secretary to Government in the Secret Department, and if you should entertain any apprehension of the security of the dak, you will despatch your letter by proper boats to Kederji, or to the nearest port in Bengal.

If any circumstances should require your return to your command in the Northern Sarkars, you will be particularly careful to select an officer properly qualified to hold the command in Cuttack, until my orders can be received ; and you will transmit to Fort William the earliest notification of your departure, and of the appointment of the officer whom you may select to succeed you in command in Cuttack.

**No. 230**—Melville is appointed the Civil Commissioner with the British forces sent to conquer the province of Cuttack, and is given general instructions regarding the policy to be adopted for the settlement of the country when conquered.

**FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE,**

**TO—J. MELVILLE.**

*Fort William, 3rd August 1803.*

The course of events in the Maratha Empire having compelled the British Government to proceed to hostilities against the power and possessions of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and the Raja of Berar, His Excellency the most noble the Governor General has been pleased to direct that a detachment of troops be despatched immediately from the Presidency by sea, to join the force assembled near Ganjam, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, for the purpose of establishing the authority of the British Government, in the province of Cuttack.

His Excellency deeming it expedient that a Civil Commissioner should accompany the British forces, for the purpose of effecting the settlement of the country, and of assisting the commanding officer of the forces in the conduct of any negotiation with the chieftains and officers of that country, or of its contiguous territories, has been pleased to select you for that purpose, and you are accordingly directed to embark on the ship '*Philip Dundas*', the commander of which has been directed to receive and accommodate you.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General to communicate to you the following general instructions, for the regulations of your conduct in discharging the duties entrusted to your charge.

You will be pleased to accompany the detachment destined to proceed against the province of Cuttack.

The primary object of your duty will be, as the army advances into the enemy's territory, to effect a settlement of the revenue of the conquered country, with the persons who may be in actual charge or possession of it.

It is the intention of the Governor General to establish the laws and regulations of the Company's Government in the province of Cuttack, in the same manner as they prevail in the other provinces of the Company's dominion.

This arrangement, therefore, must be considered to form the basis of any engagements which you may contract with the landholders of the province, and in concluding such engagements, it will be proper that you should signify to those persons the intention of the British Government ultimately to admit the inhabitants of the conquered territory to the benefit of our laws and regulations, explaining at the same time the nature of the protection which the British administration extends to all who are placed under its authority, and the lenity and justice of its laws and principles.

The complete introduction of our regulations, and of our system of revenue into the conquered districts, must necessarily be a work of time ; for the present, it will be sufficient to conclude engagements with the landholders for the term of one year. It is impracticable to prescribe the precise terms of such a settlement. I am directed to observe, however, that the revenue to be assessed should be so moderate as to conciliate the parties with whom engagements may be contracted, towards the British government, and to reconcile the prejudices and pride of the native Rajas or Chiefs to the new arrangement.

To enable you to effect this temporary settlement, you will endeavour to procure from the landholders the accounts of the revenue, and you will employ every other means in your power also to obtain the best information with regard to the actual assessment of the several districts.

You will be careful to observe the most conciliatory conduct towards all the chieftains, Zamindars, and inhabitants of the Maratha territory, with whom you may have occasion to communicate.

His Excellency the Governor General has stated in his instructions to the commanding officer of the troops his sentiments with respect to the conduct to be observed towards the Brahmins in charge of the Pagoda of Jagannath.; a transcript of that part of His Excellency's instructions which relates to that subject, is inclosed for your information and

guidance. You will obtain the earliest and most accurate information with regard to the system and extent of the collections at that Pagoda, and to the amount of revenue which the Maratha Government derives from that branch of its resources ; and you will make the necessary arrangements for securing the due payment of that proportion of the collections at Jagannath, regulating your proceedings, however, according to the spirit of lenity and forbearance prescribed in His Excellency's instructions to Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell.

I am further directed to furnish you with the inclosed extract from those instructions, containing the communication of His Excellency the Governor General's sentiments with respect to the conduct to be observed towards such of the Zamindars and chieftains, in the province of Cuttack, and in the vicinity, as have rendered themselves independent of the Maratha power, or who possess independent rights. You are empowered to conduct, in concert with Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, such negotiations with these chieftains and Zamindars as may appear to you and to Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell to be advisable, and consistent with the spirit of His Excellency's instructions.

When the whole of the province shall have been subjected to the British authority, you will continue in charge of the collections, fixing your residence at such station as you and the commanding officer of the troops may judge to be most convenient.

To aid you in the discharge of these duties, Mr. Hartwell and Mr. Hunter have been directed to attend you in the capacity of assistants, and you are authorized, if you think proper, to vest those gentlemen with the charge of any of the conquered districts until further orders, furnishing them with proper instructions, and requiring them to act under your immediate authority.

You are authorized to draw your present allowances until further orders, and to entertain, at the public charge, such an establishment of native officers as may be necessary to aid you in conducting the duties of the situation to which you are appointed.

Your assistants are authorized to draw the following allowances from the date of their appointment :—

				Rs.
Salary ..	..	..	..	400
Deputation allowance	..	..	..	350

You will assume the official designation of 'Commissioner for the affairs of Cuttack'.

**No. 231**—Collins informs General Wellesley that he has left the camp of Sindhia, and is marching towards Aurangabad. He adds that Colonel Stevenson has also been informed of this development.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—MAJOR-GENERAL A. WELLESLEY.**

*Camp near Tondapur, 3rd August 1803.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 29th ultimo, and to apprise you of my having left the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

In my conference with the Maharaja and the Raja of Berar, on the 31st ultimo, when I observed to those Chieftains, that if they did not instantly retire from the frontier of the Nawab Nizam, you would no longer delay taking advantage of your present position, Shridhar Pant, without hesitation, replied, that should the honourable General Wellesley commence hostilities, or order the British forces to advance towards the Ajanta Ghat, in either of these events Raghuji Bhonsla and Daulat Rao Sindhia would consider themselves at liberty to march their troops in whatever direction they might think proper.

Although the weather began to clear up yesterday at noon, and no rain fell during the night, yet I found the road to this place exceedingly deep. It is now one o'clock in the afternoon and my escort is not yet arrived, though it marched at half after four this morning. I purpose ascending the Fardapur Ghat tomorrow, and proceeding as far as the town of Ajanta, provided the gun bullocks are in a condition to perform the journey. I have apprized Colonel Stevenson that I should this day leave the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia, in consequence of his refusal to retire from his present position and of my intention to prosecute my march to Aurangabad with all practicable expedition.

Last night at ten o'clock I received the enclosed *khariṭa* to your address from Daulat Rao Sindhia. No copy of this letter was sent to me, but I believe it is to the same purport as that which I had the honor to forward to you on the 1st instant, from the Raja of Berar.

**No. 232**—Collins leaves the camp of Sindhia in the morning of August 3, and starts for Aurangabad.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Camp near Tondapur, 3rd August 1803.*

I have the honour to apprise Your Excellency of my having left the camp of Daulat Rao Sindhia this morning. The enclosures Nos. 1, 2

will inform Your Lordship of the necessity I was under of adopting this measure.

I arrived at my present ground of encampment this forenoon, and purpose proceeding to Aurangabad with all practicable expedition. The roads, however, are so very deep that I apprehend we shall encounter much difficulty in ascending the Ajanta Ghat with our guns.

**No. 233**—In the following extract from a private secret letter to Webbe, Close points out that General A. Wellesley has not fully followed the instructions of the Governor General regarding the policy to be adopted towards Sindhia and Bhonsla.

FROM—B. CLOSE, THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—J. WEBBE.

*Poona, 4th August 1803.*

SECRET

General Wellesley is strongly prejudiced against our alliance with the Peshwa and under this impression, I think, shows less spirit and confidence for some time past, than is natural to his mind. On many military points my ideas have differed from his which, however, may be of little consequence. He should have strained heaven and earth to reinforce Stevenson ; part of his cavalry at least, should certainly be with the latter, and for the attack of Ahmednagar he ought to have the service of his fine battering guns which have long been lying at Panwel.

The conferences with Sindhia and the Bhonsla go on as usual. Wellesley desires them through Collins to go home but they make excuse after excuse, and then they are on the \* \* \*. I recommend that a day should be fixed for their departure on pain of their being attacked. Not long afterwards the Governor General desired that the same means should be adopted, but it has not been adopted and the season is passing away ; the rivers will ere long be fordable, and the parties ripe upon the quarrel. Holkar is still between the Tapti and the Narbada, and although Sindhia has largely reconciled to him, he does not appear to have any immediate intention of joining Sindhia and the Bhonsla against us. You may suppose that I may not write so frankly except for your own eye.



**No. 234**—Collins informs the Governor General of his having reached Nizamabad, a place within the territories of the Nizam.

**FROM**—J COLLINS, THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

**TO**—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Nizamabad, 4th August 1803.*

I have the honour to apprise Your Excellency of my arrival at Nizamabad, a town within the territory of the Nawab Nizam and situated three miles to the south of the Ajanta Pass. It will not, I fear, be in my power to proceed towards Aurangabad for a day, or two on account of the violent and incessant rain which has fallen ever since six o'clock this morning until the present hour ten at night.

Daulat Rao Sindhia, or rather his minister Jadu Rao Bhau, evaded granting me an escort, as well as a supply of grain. Both, however, were promised me, on the condition of my deferring my departure one day, which proposal I received with silent contempt.

**No. 235**—In this memorandum Major Malcolm summarises the negotiations that were being carried on between the English, and Sindhia and Bhonsla, and points out that the responsibility for the war lies entirely on the Maratha Chiefs.

Memorandum by Major Malcolm,

His Highness the Peshwa Baji Rao having been obliged to quit his capital, concluded at Bassein with the honourable Company a treaty, by which the British Government bound itself to defend His Highness, his rights and interests, against all who should attack him.

The contracting parties had a full right to enter into this treaty, which is purely defensive: and it contains an express stipulation that the British troops shall not be employed to attack the great Maratha Jagirdars, unless they should first commit hostilities against the allies.

Daulat Rao Sindhia called upon the British Government to give assistance to the Peshwa to recover his *Masnad*: subsequently, when informed that the relations between the honourable Company and Pandit Pradhan had been improved, he expressed his satisfaction at that event, and he declared on the 2nd of March to the British Resident in his camp, in his public Durbar, in the most formal manner, that he had no intention to obstruct the execution of the Treaty of Bassein, or to commit hostilities against the British Government or its allies.

Notwithstanding this declaration, accounts reached the British Government from various quarters, stating that Daulat Rao Sindhia had combined with the Raja of Berar, and with other chiefs, for the purpose of hostility against the British Government and its allies.

The Treaty of Bassein was communicated to Daulat Rao Sindhia on the 27th of May, and that Chief was called upon to state his objections to it, if he had any. He was also desired to make known the object of his negotiations with the Raja of Berar and other chiefs; and was called upon to return with his troops to their usual stations, if his designs were not hostile to the British Government or its allies.

In answer, Daulat Rao Sindhia declared to the British Resident, that until he had a meeting with the Raja of Berar, he could not decide whether there should be "Peace or War"; but that the British Resident should be made acquainted with the determination of the united Chiefs, as soon as their meeting would take place.

The Chiefs met in the neighbourhood of Malkapur on the 3rd June, and from that day, notwithstanding that the defensive and innocent nature of the Treaty of Bassein was repeatedly explained to them, and that they have never stated the smallest objection to it, they evaded to give any answer to the just demands of the British Government till the 28th of July.

Both Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Raja of Berar then declared, that they had no intentions to attack the Company or their allies, or to obstruct the execution of the Treaty of Bassein, provided the honourable Company would not obstruct the execution of the treaties subsisting between His Highness the Peshwa and those Chiefs: they still, however, manifested an intention of advancing towards the frontier of His Highness the Nizam, and of remaining with their troops in a station contiguous to His Highness's boundary.

Major-General Wellesley therefore, on the 14th July, wrote a letter to Daulat Rao Sindhia, in which he apprized that Chief, that he could not consider his actions to be consistent with his declarations, if he did not separate his troops from those of the Raja of Berar, and both Chiefs did not retire with their troops to the stations they usually occupied; he promised that the British troops should also retire to their usual stations, when the united Chiefs should have retired; but he informed them, that if Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Raja of Berar should remain with their troops in the neighbourhood of the Nizam's frontier, Major-General Wellesley would be obliged to take advantage of the positions which the British troops had taken up, to attack their possessions, an event which he most anxiously deprecated.

Major General Wellesley at the same time declared to Daulat Rao Sindhia, "that it was not consistent with the Treaty of Bassein, or with the principles of the British Government, to support any power in the breach of a treaty," and therefore he might be satisfied regarding the treaties between the Peshwa and his Government.

Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Raja of Berar have declared themselves to be satisfied with this declaration, and the former acquiesced in the justice of the demand of Major-General Wellesley, that he should retire with his troops to the stations which they usually occupy ; but instead of retiring with their troops, these Chiefs have persevered to retain the position which they took up for the purposes of hostility against the British government and their allies, and they have written letters to propose to Major-General Wellesley that he should withdraw to Madras, Seringpatam, and Bombay the troops which had been assembled for the purpose of repelling their aggressions, and of defending the rights and territories of the allies, while they should keep their troops united in the neighbourhood of the Nizam's frontier, and in readiness to take advantage of the absence of the troops of the British Government and its allies, to carry into execution their hostile designs.

Major-General Wellesley offered to Daulat Rao Sindhia and the Raja of Berar, peace on terms of equality, and honourable to all parties ; they have preferred war, and they alone must be considered responsible for the consequences.

Under these circumstances Major-General Wellesley is obliged to commence operations against them, in order to secure the interests of the British Government and its allies.

## SUPPLEMENT

### *North Indian Events (Aug. 1800-July 1801)*

This and the despatches following, were secured at a late stage of printing and therefore appear at the end of the volume. They cover the gap between December 1800 to August 1801 and may conveniently be read after No. 26 of section 1.

**No. 236**—The Jaipur Rajah solicits protective alliance with the English against the Marathas. News of Perron, the Bais, Lakwa Dada, and the British Mission to Ranjit Singh.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 10th August 1800.*

Enam Ulla Khan did not return to this station until yesterday, his journey from Jaypur having been retarded by heavy rains, and the consequent swelling of the *nalas*. He has brought two horses and four pairs of Nagora bullocks, as a present for Your Lordship from Rajah Partab Singh, also a horse, one pair of bullocks, and some *attar* for me.

I do myself the honour to enclose a copy and translate (No. 1) of a letter to my address from Rajah Partab Singh, together with a transcript and translation of a memorandum (No. 2) taken by Enam Ulla while at Jaypur, the purport of which is referred to in the enclosure No. 1.

The Battalions, detached from Koel by Mr. Perron, for the purpose of opposing Sambhoo Nath, have defeated the forces of this rebel with considerable slaughter, and with the loss of seven pieces of artillery.

Although it by no means appears that the insurgents are completely subdued, yet as Mr. Perron is advanced as far as Delhi, in considerable force, there can be little doubt, I conceive, but that Sambhoo Nath will shortly be obliged either to make his submission, or to fly to the Sikhs for protection, since hitherto Mr. George Thomas has evinced no intention of interfering in this commotion.

Lakwa Dada still continues in the vicinity of Ajmer, and Ambajee has not yet quitted the Jaypoor territories. The latter, however, talks confidently of dispossessing the Udepur Prince of the Mewar district but I am rather inclined to believe he will, if possible, avoid a contest with the forces of Lakhwajee.

My last advices from Malwa mention the arrival of the Bais in the neighbourhood of Maheswar. They further state that Jaswant Rao Holkar had detached a sardar with three or four thousand horse, in order to protect those ladies. But so little reliance can, in general, be placed in the good faith of the Marhatta Chiefs, that it would not, in the least, surprise me, were Holkar induced to desert the cause of the Bais by the insidious promises held forth to him from Sindhia for that purpose.

Usuf Ali Khan was detained at Jhind until the 24th of last month, when he resumed his journey towards Patiala. The Sikh country is, at present,

in so distracted a state, owing to internal dissensions, that Usuf Ali would, most probably, have been obliged to return, but for the assistance which he derived from the friendly exertions of Rour Mal, through whose influence with the different Sikh Sardars, proper escorts have been obtained from Jhind to Patiala.

**No. 236A.**

*Translation of a letter from Rajah Partab Singh to Lieutenant Colonel John Collins.*

Enam-ullah Khan informed me in the fullest manner of the excellence of your virtues and of the pure friendship you bear me from the bottom of your heart. From so much goodness on your part, I derive additional hopes of increasing [the feelings ?] concerned. I have now permitted Enam-ullah Khan to leave this confirmably with your wish : he will on his arrival with you acquaint you with all the particulars I have entrusted to him. As no difference or disunion whatever has place between me and the English Company, our long established connection will continue to strengthen daily, God willing ! It will give me pleasure to hear that you repeatedly address the Governor General properly explaining and recommending this subject, and that you preserve the garden of intimacy and affection fresh and flourishing by the kindly dew of your cordial exertions. Certain matters were submitted to you in writing by Hakim Shavier De Silva a Portuguese Khan. You took an English translation of the writing, but postponed adjusting the subject of it with the Governor General for some reason or other. On this topic Enam-ullah Khan is fully informed in regard to my answer. I rely on your friendly endeavours for the settlement of it now, after which, you will send me the sketch regarding these matters, and I will then despatch a *kharita* properly drawn up.

*Memorandum of the declarations of Rai Ratan Lal on the part of Partab Singh to Enam-ulla Khan.*

On the subject of the Memorandum of propositions already known to you, Rai Ratan Lal replied to me on the part of the Maharaja and in presence of Deena Ram Bohra, to this effect. That he was thoroughly sensible, as well from what I stated as from having seen the recent correspondence, that the affairs of the English were conducted with slowness and circumspection, and that, without committing themselves, they do not deviate from their engagements of friendship established with other Powers ; that therefore, when you should see a fit occasion you would bring the memorandum of propositions into discussion and adjust the same, and that in pursuance thereto a letter also from the Maharaja would be written on the occasion ; that whenever the Governor General's approach to Lucknow should be ascertained, you would give intelligence of it, and the deputation of a Vakeel would accordingly take place.

**No. 237**—News of the Sikh chieftains and of Zaman Shah's designs against Hindustan. English envoy Mir Yusuf Ali Khan meets Ranjit Singh of Lahore; letter from Ranjit to Collins desiring an alliance.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 18th December 1800.*

I do myself the honour to forward a *Kharita* to your Lordship's address, from the Sikh Chief of Lahore, together with copies, and translates, of dispatches, which I yesterday received from Uusuf Ali Khan.

Nothing material has occurred in this quarter since the 9th instant, when I last wrote to your Lordship. It appears, however, that Jaswant Rao Holkar has taken great offence at the distinction lately conferred on his brother Kashi Rao by the Peshwa, and that he means to withdraw the assistance of his troops from Daulat Rao Sindhia, who, as he supposes, influenced the Peshwa to bestow the *Khelat* on his brother. The *akhbars* mentioned that Jaswant Rao has addressed an *arzee* to Zaman Shah, expressed in terms of respect and submission.

**No. 237A.**

*Translation Copy of an arzee from Mir Usuf Ali Khan to Lieut. Colonel John Collins, dated Lahore the 22nd of November 1800.*

Sardar Dal Singh assembled all the officers of his Government and after some deliberation sent to desire my attendance. I worked on him conformably to the advice of Moonshee Ram Deel, who impressed with the fame which the English nation bears, is become attached to its interest. They continued long to enquire of me the situation of affairs, put questions to me regarding you and relative to the welfare of other gentlemen. Being satisfied of the praiseworthy qualities, good intentions, justice and power with which God has endowed the English, they testified much pleasure and were lavish of praise. Dal Singh after this called upon me to state what you had instructed me to communicate verbally to him. Accordingly, in a forcible and proper manner I translated for him the contents of your instructions to me. All the sardars on understanding what I delivered, evinced their satisfaction at it, and acknowledged the foresight and wisdom of the English Government. The suspicions that had crept into the minds of the Khalsajee sardars through the intrigues of certain persons, are to all appearance now removed; and they candidly confessed that the intention of the English was to secure the general tranquillity, and that therefore they would acknowledge submission to their commands. As the English had sent an agent to cultivate their friendship, so the Khalsajee sardars proposed deputing a vakeel to remain with you for the purpose of transmitting them clear accounts from that quarter. They dismissed me with assurances that replies would in two or three days be returned to the *kharitas*. Two *kharitas* were accordingly forwarded by their own

*harcaras*. I since had a meeting with Monshee Ram Deel, at which I gave him to understand, that it would be proper to defer to another opportunity the measure of deputing a Vakeel, but that the chiefs might despatch one of their own *harcaras*. The Moonshee assented to this, and in consequence has sent a trusty *harcara* of his own to you in charge of the *kharitas*.

I formerly sent off two *harcaras* to Peshawar in order to bring me accounts of Zaman Shah. I have now despatched two more (in company with Sirda Ram, Ranjit Singh's vakeel, who is taking *arzees* and presents to the Shah) for the purpose of procuring correct intelligence. Other Sikh sardars have likewise addressed *arzees* to the Shah.

*Translation copy of an arzee from Syed Usuf Ali Khan to Lieut. Colonel John Collins, dated Lahore the 25th of November 1800.*

Rajah Ranjit Singh, who hitherto carried on hostilities against Saheb Singh, Jassa Singh, and others within seven *cos* of the city, lately marched to Goojerat, the residence of these sardars, where he commenced a scene of depredation, and plundered and set fire to many villages. Saheb Singh and the rest have also marched for the protection of their territories, and it is very probable that a battle will be fought between the parties at Goojerat. Ranjit Singh has sent for a reinforcement of troops together with his artillery, and left several of his sardars such as Karam Singh, &c. with an army opposing Jassa Singh and Chait Singh, &c.

No true intelligence has as yet reached me from Peshawar regarding the Shah. I have despatched several of your *casids* to Peshawar to bring account of him, and immediately on their arrival will forward to you whatever news they may bring. It is some time since I sent off one of your *harcaras* to you by the route of Najibabad in company with an *harcara* of Rajah Ranjit Singh and in charge of letters, and they have now probably reached you.

### No. 237B.

*Translation copy of a letter from Rajah Ranjit Singh to Lieut. Colonel John Collins.*

After compliments, Rajah Ranjit Singh acknowledges the receipt of Lieut. Colonel Collins' letter, recapitulates its contents, and describes the pleasure it affords him and after relating the arrival of Mir Usuf Ali Khan, deputed to him as a Vakeel by Colonel Collins, and recapitulating the principal object of his instructions which the Rajah declares he perfectly understands, he proceeds to state :

That it is plain and manifest, no person has yet shown that this world contains anything preferable to harmony and friendship, which equally please the Almighty and confer happiness on mankind. When Zaman Shah last invaded the Punjab, I withdrew from my place of residence, and took post fifteen *cos* from Lahore in the direction of Amritsar, as I was

unprovided with warlike apparatus for resistance. In this condition, I evinced every hostile appearance and repeatedly encountered the enemy even under the walls of Lahore. At length the grand Vizeer Wafadar Khan, from motives alike sagacious and politic, made overtures for peace and sent confidential persons with letters to me at Amritsar, and at the same time desired I would permit my intimate friend and particularly trustworthy Moonshee Ram Deel to attend him. This person having waited on him, hostilities were discontinued by orders from the Vizeer, the advantage of peace was held forth, oaths and protestations were pledged, the joy of permanent arrangements was excited, and a written treaty, proposed by the Vizeer, was concluded by both parties to the following effect : that the Shah would immediately quit Lahore and repair to his own country, but that as he was resolved to invade Hindoostan he would in the next succeeding year require the attendance of my vakeels at Peshawar, that he might enter on his projects pursuant to agreement to avail himself of my services at Shahjahanabad and in other parts of Hindoostan. The Vizeer then dismissed the deputation on my part, with distinguished honour and numerous declarations of encouragement, and proceeded with the Shah on his return to Kabul. I followed the royal army by successive marches, treading on its very footsteps and witnessed, as fate decreed it, the swamping of the whole of the Shah's artillery in the centre of the river Jhilam in consequence of a fall of rain that overtook the army on the way. This place being the boundary of my territory, I assembled a number of people, recovered the guns from the midst of the river by the utmost exertions, and appropriated them to my own use. A lapse of some time occurred after this, and his objects in Iran occupying all the attentions of Zaman Shah, he sent a vakeel to me with rich cloths, sumptuous *khilats*, a Persian horse for my own particular service, and a letter requesting that the royal artillery might be restored to him in consideration of the mutual friendly intercourse established between us. Actuated by a regard for my own word, and unwilling to sully our friendship, I treated the Shah's Vakeel with marked respect and made him liberal presents, put him in possession of the artillery with all its appurtenances, and conveyed it from my own country to Multan. Zaman Shah entertains the design of conquering Hindoostan and is desirous to visit Lucknow and Farrukhabad. By the newspapers transmitted to him from his *Waka-nigars*, but especially by the intelligence sent to him last year from Lucknow where his vakeel Gholam Mohammad resided, the Shah is informed that the Nabob Asaf-ud-daula died possessed of eleven crores of rupees in ready money, sixty-four lacs of gold mohurs, one thousand seven hundred elephants, nine hundred pieces of cannon, and fourteen thousand horses, besides jewels and articles of household furniture, and also that he seized on twenty-two thousand gold mohurs of the confiscated property of Hajee Gholam Mohammad Khan Rohila and sent his family as hostages from Rampoor to Calcutta. All this account Salek(?) Ram Deel himself perused while he stayed at Lahore. It is in consequence of these statements that the



Shah is determined on an expedition into Hindoostan, and it is purely to facilitate his views that he is so desirous to conciliate my attachment to him. When I reflect on consequences, particularly so from what you have advanced, I see that no dependence whatever can be placed in the oaths and declarations of the Durranees, necessity alone induced me to enter into terms with the Shah. You were remote from me, while he, with an army, was close at hand; the Sikh sardars are at variance with one another, and each is aiming at individual independence. Between the evils dreaded from the Shah and the dissensions of the Sikh chiefs, the ~~choice~~ <sup>choice</sup> is therefore teeming with difficulties. If I do not temporize and preserve appearances with the Shah, the other Sikh sardars will immediately make advances to him. After maturely weighing the consequences of union and friendship with so powerful a people as the English, many advantages present themselves to my view; first, the ease and prosperity of my country, in which every individual will live securely and contented; secondly the tribe of Hindoos attached and submissive to the English will continue happy and free from all causes of regret; and thirdly the truth and constancy of the English will be rendered conspicuous. Whenever, by the favor of Heaven, the two rivers shall become one (a co-operation of power) that occurrence will, please God, be productive of present and future good consequences. After revolving all matters in my unprejudiced mind, I, therefore, now become your friend by correspondence, cherish the continuance of this amicable intercourse, and detain Mir Usuf Ali Khan with me, while at the same time I apprize you that Zaman Shah is an enemy to the lives and property of both your government and mine, and meditates the ruin of both States. He has now been some days at Peshawar, and the utmost distance between him and the borders of my country is not more than forty *cos*. He is intent on military preparations, collecting his *qushoons*, and embodying his army. He is resolved on entering Hindoostan at all events, and has called upon me to join him conformably with our former agreement. To your discerning mind it must be evident that to oppose the Shah and engage him with effect, is a matter of considerable difficulty without a very powerful army, vast expense of treasure and well-garrisoned fortresses. Should I determine to dispute the passage of the Attock with the Shah, it will in that case be necessary to make preparations for the execution of that design. With regard to the rest, you by the favour of God, are endowed with the best sense, and possessed of all information, and the Mir moreover has, no doubt, made you particularly acquainted with the state of this country.

**No. 238**—News about Kabul affairs, Holkar and Sindhia's generals in Hindustan. Perron instigates Ranjīt Singh against the English.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,  
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 22nd December 1800.*

In a letter which I this day received from Usuf Ali Khan, he apprizes me of Mahmood Shah's having recommenced hostilities against his brother in the provinces of Herat and Candahar. It appears that this insurrection has been chiefly excited by the Durranny Sirdars, who for the most part are highly incensed at the cruelties lately exercised by Zaman Shah towards some leading men of their tribe.

My agent further states that the Durranny Prince, being greatly alarmed at the rebellion of Mahmood, means to proceed with his army to Candahar with the utmost expedition.

It appears by the *akhbars* that Jaswant Rao Holkar has consented to a suspension of hostilities with Lakhwa Dada. In consequence thereof, the latter chief relinquished the district of Shahajahnpur to Mir Khan, and has marched towards Rajgarh, for the purpose of forming a junction with the Grassias. It is supposed that Lakhwa intends to levy contributions in the zillahs subject to the authority of Ambajee Rao.

Mr. Perron is at present employed in besieging Baghera, a fortress garrisoned by the adherents of the Bais and situated in the subah of Ajmer.

Ambajee is encamped at Sitamau, a village distant about thirty coss to the northwest of Ujjain. He declares an intention of retaining this situation until the arrival of his regular Battalions from Gwalior, when he purposes having an interview with Jaswant Rao Holkar.

**No. 239**—News of Daulat Rao's move towards Hindustan. The doings of his generals in the North, Lakwa Dada and the Bais.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 27th December 1800.*

Colonel Palmer having, I understand, accompanied the Peshwa in his journey to Jejuri, it is possible that Your Lordship may not be informed of the late movements of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

On this supposition, I deem it necessary to apprize your Lordship that the Maharaja marched in the morning of the 6th instant from his cantonment at Poona, and proceeded four coss on his route towards Hindostan.

The regular Corps, under the command of European Officers, remain encamped with Sindhia, but the Hindostanny and Deccanny Cavalry, have returned to their cantonments in the vicinity of Poonah. These troops have plainly told the Maharaja that they will not accompany him further, unless their arrears of pay are previously liquidated.

Mr. Perron has entrusted the conduct of the siege of Baghera to Mr. Pohlmann, and is marching towards Uniara. It is said that he has called

on the Kotah Rajah to furnish his contingent of auxiliaries, to act against the party of the Bais.

Lakwa Dada is arrested at Rajgarh. My advices from thence mention that this Chief purposes moving towards Datia, where he means to leave the Bais. After having thus provided for the security of those ladies, he designs, in conjunction with the Datia Rajah, and Grassia Sardars, to levy contributions in the districts appertaining to such Chiefs as remain faithful to the interests of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

Jessant Rao Holkar appears highly displeased with Sindia at present. He pretends to have lost ten lacs of rupees by the depredations of the adherents of the Bais, and threatens to recover this money from the revenues of the Maharaja's territories in Hindostan. In fine, the condition of Sindhia's affairs, in this quarter still continues in the greatest disorder.

**No. 240**—Perron intrigues with Bhag Singh of Jhind to set Ranjit Singh against the English. Report from the English agent at Lahore. Zaman Shah's son defeated at Qandahar by Mahmud Shah.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 5th January, 1801*

I do myself the nonour to forward, by express, a copy and translate of an *arzee* from Usuf Ali Khan, the contents of which appear to me deserving of your Lordship's notice.

The following is the substance of a verbal communication made by Deepa, the *harcara* referred to in the enclosed letter from my agent.

This man states, that an *harcara* in the service of Mr. Perron together with a pair of *kasids* from Bhag Singh, Rajah of Jhind, charged with dispatches for Ranjit Singh, had inadvertently stopped one evening in their way to the Rajah's camp, at the house occupied by Usuf Ali in Lahore.

That he (Deepa), being long acquainted with Mr. Perron's *harcara* asked the motive of his present journey; the *harcara* replied that he was sent by his master to prevail on Ranjit Singh to expel Mir Usuf from the city of Lahore.

That after the foregoing conversation, he (Deepa) set off for Ramnagar where Ram Dial the Moonshee of Ranjit Singh then was, celebrating the nuptials of his daughter. That on the conclusion of this ceremony he accompanied Ram Dial to the Durbar of Ranjit Singh, who was then encamped about thirty coss to the westward of Lahore.

That on this occasion Ranjit Singh delivered a Persian letter to Ram Dial (addressed to the former by Mr. Perron), for the purpose of having the same explained. That the substance of it was to this effect :—

“ The vakeel deputed to your Court by the British Government, has in view the establishment of a factory at Lahore, and is also instructed to inspect and report on the internal state of the Punjab in order that the English may, hereafter, be enabled to overrun your country with large armies. I, therefore, in friendship advise you not to place the least confidence in the assertions of this agent of the English, but to plunder and drive him from your territories ”.

Deepa further affirms that the advice contained in Mr. Perron's letter, being strongly supported by Bhag Singh's dispatch, had highly exasperated Rajah Ranjit Singh, who actually in the first impulse of passion, ordered a party of horse to march to Lahore for the purpose of dismissing Usuf Ali from thence with disgrace. But that this violent procedure was prevented by the interposition of Moonshee Ram Dial, who requested the Rajah not to act in anger, nor with precipitation, but to leave the settlement of the affair to his management. That on leaving the Durbar, he (Deepa) beseeched Ram Dial to give up Mr. Perron's letter that he might take it to Usuf Ali for the information of Colonel Collins ; but that Ram Dial, far from complying, treated him with harsh language for daring to prefer a request of that nature.

That after a lapse of some days, he (Deepa) again waited on the Moonshee, who then told him to repair to the city of Lahore where he himself should shortly follow.

Although I entertain no doubt, in my own mind, but that Mr. Perron has acted the treacherous part ascribed to him in the foregoing relation, yet being desirous of obtaining still stronger proofs thereof, previous to any expostulation, I shall not address him on the subject until I hear again from Usuf Ali Khan. Indeed, I am partly withheld from taking any steps in this business from an apprehension that your Lordship might possibly consider Mr. Perron's conduct as resulting from the instructions of Daulat Rao Sindhia, and, in consequence, deem it necessary to call on the Maharaja for an explanation of the motives which induced an interference so totally incompatible with the relations of amity and friendship subsisting between him and the English Government.

Sindhia has recently received ten lacs of rupees from the Guikawar vakeel at Poona. This money the Maharaja is distributing amongst his troops, who will, I think, at length be prevailed on to accompany him to Hindostan.

A *casid* in my employ, brings the following intelligence from Peshawar :—

Fath Khan, the son of Painda Beg Khan (who was lately put to death by the Durranny Prince) in conjunction with Mahomood Shah and the tribe of Berakzy, marched to Candahar, and after defeating the son of Zaman Shah and Meher Ali Khan, superintendent of the Royal Stud, they took possession of that city and fortress. The young Prince effected his escape, but Meher Ali was taken, and deprived of his eyesight. In consequence of this event, Sher Mahommed Khan has been detached in force, from Peshawar, towards Candahar, and Zaman Shah purposes repaining thither also some time in the month of March next.

#### No. 240A.

*Translation copy of an arzee from Mir Usuf Ali Khan to Colonel John Collins, dated Lahore, the 12th of December 1800.*

Under providence and your auspices I have hitherto continued at Lahore and maintained a friendly intercourse with the Durbar, conformably in all respects to your wishes and intentions ; and Rajah Ranjit Singh and his Ministers, aware of the advantages to be derived from a dependence on the English Company, transmitted addresses to the most noble Governor General and to you by the Rajah's own special messenger. These appearances however are displeasing to the envious, who have thrown doubts and jealousies into the mind of Ranjit Singh. Just now a singular event has occurred here. Rajah Bhag Singh, the uncle of Ranjit Singh, living in constant dread and alarm from George Thomas, has long devotedly prayed for the arrival of Mr. Perron in this quarter, and this occurrence lately taking place by the approach of Mr. Perron to Karnal, all the Sardars in that vicinity influenced by their fear of Mr. Thomas, sent letters, *nazars* and presents to Mr. Perron, on which occasion Bhag Singh in particular gave his personal attendance. Mr. Perron by acts of conciliation relieved Bhag Singh's mind from the solicitude felt in respect to Mr. Thomas and afforded him the fullest satisfaction ; he assigned him at the same time two *perganas* in *jaidad*, made a friend of him, and through his means opened a correspondence between himself and Rajah Ranjit Singh. In consequence of this, letters were received about that time by Ranjit Singh from Bhag Singh and Mr. Perron, and a repetition of them has just now taken place. What these letters contain of malevolent suspicion and unjust imputation to the prejudice of the English Government and of me, God only knows. It is however certain that after perusal of them Rajah Ranjit Singh became exceedingly ill-humoured, displeased, and vexed, so as to render it disagreeable for me to continue any longer in Lahore. In order to learn the particulars of this circumstance, I sent a person to Moonshee Ram Deel with a request that he would inform me of the subject of Mr. Perron's and Bhag Singh's letters. The Moonshee from motives of caution did not send me the letters in question, but

excusing himself said he would shew them to me when he should return to the city. The fact however is that Rajah Ranjit Singh, confiding in the communication made to him by Bhag Singh, harbours some evil intention. May God avert the dangerous consequences of it ! To write more on this subject would be imprudent ; it is sufficient that the *harcara* who went to Moonshee Ram Deel and saw and heard everything himself, is despatched to you that he may say all the particulars before you. As I have not seen the letters of Mr. Perron or Bhag Singh, and as people assert a great deal on this subject, I have therefore refrained from stating all I have heard. At present I pass my time in anxiety and apprehension. In both the city and camp it is circulated that Rajah Ranjit Singh regards me with anger and dissatisfaction. I will hereafter acquaint you with whatever else may happen.

All descriptions of people in Lahore say without reserve that Mr. Perron and Rajah Bhag Singh have written to Rajah Ranjit Singh to this effect : " Mir Usuf Ali Khan who has come to you on the part of the English, has no other purpose but to inspect your country and explore the way. The practice of the English is this, they first obtain a knowledge of the country and then design to possess themselves of it. Do not on any account permit Mir Usuf to remain with you, and do not meet him, for it is the intention of the English to establish a factory in Lahore and to station two or three Brigades there. It is thus they seized on Bengal and other places. We mention this for your information ; if you act as we advise, it is well, otherwise you will repent it ; send therefore the vakeel of the English speedily away from Lahore, and do not suffer his continuance there ". This is the whole of what is current. I have only heard it, and not seen the letter. Of the arrival of these two Sardars' letters there is however no doubt whatever, neither is there any of the extreme displeasure of Rajah Ranjit Singh.

**No. 241**—News of Daulat Rao's march to Jamgaon, Ranjit Singh, Lakwa Dada, Jaswant Holkar and intervention in Patiala by Perron and George Thomas.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 16th January 1801.*

Daulat Rao Sindhia arrived at Jamgaon on the 21st ultimo, and on the day following one of his wives, the daughter of Sharzajee Ghatge, was delivered of a daughter, an event which has furnished Sindhia with a plausible pretext for remaining some days in his present encampment. It appears, however, that his Sardars, both European and Native, have refused to accompany him further on his route towards Hindostan, until the troops are paid their arrears for five months at least.

The Maharaja has deputed Sharzajee to the Poona Durbar for the purpose of demanding payment of a sum of money which the Peshwa had promised to advance on the arrival of Sindia's army at Jamgaon. But my last advices from thence state that this Minister had not succeeded in obtaining the object of his mission.

My agent in the Punjab informs me that in consequence of the late capture of Candahar, Ranjit Singh has recalled the Vakcel whom he had deputed to the Court of Zaman Shah. He also apprizes me that Ranjit Singh having concluded an advantageous peace with Saheb Singh, Chief of Gujrat, had returned to Lahore, and was, at present solely occupied in the pursuit of amusements. Usuf Ali Khan does not purpose entering into any explanation with this Chief, on the subject of Mr. Perron's insidious letter, until the arrival of Dal Singh and Moonshee Ram Dial at Lahore,—these ministers, particularly the latter, being well inclined towards the English, and possessing the entire confidence of Rajah Ranjit Singh.

Lala Harparsad, a merchant of Delhy, has received advices from Amritsar stating that Zaman Shah had actually commenced his march towards Cabul, although from the quantity of snow still lying on the ground, the roads were generally deemed impassable. This intelligence requires, in my opinion, confirmation, though there can be little doubt but that the critical situation of affairs, as well in Herat as in Candahar, must naturally induce a strong desire in the Durrany Prince to arrive at those provinces with all possible expedition.

In the morning of the 28th of last month, Lakhwa Dada, in conjunction with the Grassia Sardars, attacked the forces of Ambajee's brother Bala Rao, and after a sharp conflict, in which many on both sides were slain and wounded, Bala Rao was defeated, and compelled to fly for refuge to the small fort of Pichor, near to which this engagement took place. It appears that Lakhwajee has invested this fort and that the troops of Bala Rao were deserting daily, in considerable numbers.

Mr. George Thomas has marched, in force, towards Patiala, at the requisition of Rani Saheb Kuar, who has renewed hostilities against her brother Rajah Saheb Singh. This movement on the part of Mr. George Thomas has occasioned an address from Mr. Perron to the Rajah of Bikaner, in which the latter is warmly importuned to cause a diversion in favour of the Patiala Rajah, by an attack on the parganas subject to the authority of Mr. Thomas. Mr. Perron has likewise directed Bapoojee Sindia, the *nazim* of Saharanpur, to march immediately to the assistance of Rajah Saheb Singh leaving only sufficient forces for the protection of his own district.

Mr. Perron has consented to restore Sambhar to the Jodhpur Rajah on receiving three lacks of rupees, one of which has been already paid in bills by the vakeels of Bheem Singh.

Ambajee has at length formed a junction with Jaswant Rao Holkar, and their troops are now encamped together in the vicinity of Sarangpur. However, notwithstanding this union of forces, it is sufficiently apparent that these Chiefs entertain mutual jealousy and distrust, the consequences of which may probably soon assume a serious aspect should Sindia be obliged to protract his return to Hindostan.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have learnt, from Jamgaon, that Mr. Perron has transmitted bills on Poona to Mr. Sutherland, the amount, however, is not specified, and that the latter had sent several camels thither for the purpose of conveying the money to camp. My intelligence also mentions that an European officer, with six companies of Sepoys, and two guns, had been detached to Poona at the requisition of Sharzaji Ghatge. It likewise appears that Khande Rao, son of the late Malhar Rao Holkar, had repaired to the camp of Daulat Rao Sindia, where he was received with great distinction. The power of disposing of the person of this child is of the utmost importance to the interests of the Maharaja, since it will at all times enable him to dictate his own terms with Jaswant Rao, who, from self-considerations, has long been desirous that the investiture of the Holkar possessions in Malwa, should be conferred on Khande Rao in prejudice of the rights of Kashi Rao, who was nominated to the succession by his father, Tukojee Holkar and confirmed therein by the late Peshwa.

**No. 242**—Letters proving Perron's anti-British intrigue at Ranjit Singh's Court. Ranjit professes friendship for the English. Daulat Rao Sindhia desires Lakhwa and other rebels not to be sheltered by the British.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 28th January 1801.*

I have the honor to forward the copy and translate of a letter (No. 1) to my address, from Ranjit Singh, the contents of which will satisfy your Lordship that Mr. Perron has altogether failed in his insidious attempts to interrupt the friendly intercourse now subsisting between that Sikh Chief and your Lordship's agent.

Usuf Ali Khan acknowledges himself highly obliged, on this occasion, to Moonshee Ram Dial, whose good will and confidence he seems to have conciliated with considerable address. This Minister has furnished him, for my information, with copies of the following papers, viz., a letter from Mr. Perron to Rajah Bhag Singh of Jhind, a letter from Bhag Singh to Ranjit Singh, enclosing a preceding letter; a letter from Bhag Singh



to Ram Dial. As these papers appear to me of some importance, I shall by this day's dawk, transmit them to Mr. N. B. Edmonstone, in order that translates thereof may be communicated to your Lordship through the most authentic official channel.

Daulat Rao Sindia has lately made an excursion from Jamgaon, escorted by a battalion of Infantry, and several Rissalas of horse, for the purpose of inspecting the fortress of Ahmadnagar. Advices from his camp mention that he had fixed on the 19th inst, and, the same being a fortunate day with the Hindoos, for resuming his march towards Hindostan. But the Maharaja has not as yet made any advance of money to his troops, and until their arrears are liquidated, at least in part, I shall doubt his ability to proceed, however desirous he may be of repairing to his possessions in this quarter.

Bala Rao has effected his escape from the dangerous situation to which he was reduced at Pichor. It appears that he deceived Lakhwa Dada by means of a fictitious treaty, in which, among other concessions, he agreed to surrender the important fort of Narwar, which belongs to his brother Ambajee; and Bala Rao actually gave hostages for the due performance of his engagements, who now remain in the custody of Lakhwa Dada.

Ambajee has received reinforcement of nine thousand horse and foot from Jaswant Rao Holkar, and is now advancing against the insurgents attached to the Bais, at the head of an army nearly twenty thousand strong.

Mir Usuf Ali writes that on the 19th ultimo Zaman Shah moved from Peshawar, with great precipitation, in consequence of advices which announced the approach of his brothers towards Cabul by rapid marches. At the same time the Shah sent expresses to Sher Muhommad Khan directing him to proceed with the greatest expedition to Cabul, where he himself meant to repair without delay. My agent also states that Mahmood Shah has been joined by his brother Firoz-ud-deen, that these princes were arrived in the vicinity of Ghazni, and that it was the general belief at Lahore there would soon be a decisive action between their forces, and those of Zaman Shah.

I have the honour to enclose the copy and translate of an *arzee* (No. 2) from Ganpat Rai, my agent with Sindia.

#### No. 242A.

*Translation Copy of a letter from Rajah Ranjit Singh to Colonel John Collins, dated the 13th January 1801.*

I formerly transmitted to you in charge of Lala, my own confidential servant, an *arzee* and *kharita* addressed severally to the most noble Governor General and to you which I trust you have received.

I next turned my attention towards Goojerat and that quarter for the purpose of punishing certain Sardars of my own fraternity, who were adverse to my views and shewed a disposition to oppose me. By the favour of God, I have effectually completed my measures in these places : and all the Sardars, inconsiderable as well as great, have yielded submission to me. I have it now in contemplation to commence arranging the territory of Mangole.

Under all circumstances consider me mindful of your favour and goodness. Certain superiors of my tribe (meaning Bhag Singh) and certain persons of your nation (meaning Mr. Perron) actuated by selfish views have written stories and accounts to me tending to excite suspicions and destroy the friendship that subsists between us ; but I place no reliance on their communications, I believe them false, and that they are intended for interested purposes. On this head it is by no means my design to violate my friendship for you ; I have therefore treated Mir Usuf with all the attentions due to his situation. Our intimacy, please God, will augment daily. Of other matters you will be particularly informed from the letter of Mir Usuf Ali Khan.

#### No. 242B.

*Translation of a Persian letter from General Perron to Rajah Bhag Singh, dated 8th Jamadi-us-sani 1215 Hijeree.*

(After the usual compliments). I have lately understood that a person has gone to Ranjit Singh, the Chief of Lahore, from the English, with a view of negotiating the formation of an English Camp there, the expences of it to be defrayed by themselves, that upon the approach of any force from Villayat (Persia) they might cooperate in repelling it. This intelligence has occasioned me much surprise, for where can be the necessity that they should themselves pay this force ? They have no territory in that part that they should form a camp there. You should weigh this point well ; since I have through your medium established a friendship and good understanding with [=between] the Chieftain Ranjit Singh and the Maharajah [i.e., Sindhia] and as it is ever my practice to be mindful in every instance of the interests of those whether absent or present, with whom I am engaged in bonds of amity, I consequently, actuated by my friendship and the interest I take in his concerns, write to you fully my sentiments and advice. It is an invariable custom with the English, first to gain a footing by the excitement of avarice by the promise of assistance or other flattering terms, and then by gradual steps, they assume the government of the country. Have we not an instance of this in their conduct towards Rajah Chait Singh the Kashee-wala (the Rajah of Benares) : did they not act thus towards Tipoo Naik, and what was their conduct with regard to the Nawab Cosim Ali Khan, the Nawab Asophud Dowlah, the Nizam Ali Khan, and others ? They first in this manner gained access into the country, and they afterwards soon became possessors of it. This

circumstance requires to be considered with the greatest attention as a brotherly and friendly intercourse subsists between you and the Maharajah Dawlat Row Sindia, Ranjit Singh, and the other Chieftains, and since a system of correspondence has been happily established between you and me. I consequently address you upon this subject to advise you, that a consent to their measure is to the last degree inadvisable, and that you should do everything in your power to prevent it. It would be the destruction of every Raj and the annihilation of the authority of every chief in the country; when an English camp should be formed there; you would see their own authority would be gradually established and that the power of the Chieftains would be entirely subdued. Should the formation of a camp be prohibited, their next application would be to station *dak harkaras* and to establish customs. Should they by any means gain a footing in the country, it would no longer remain under the authority of the present Chiefs. Their real object is to establish by any means a land communication with their own country, and, they are planning to get possession to whatever country interferes with it. With this view they have seized upon every country, which fact you may ascertain upon enquiry. Reflect that a space of thousand of miles divides your country and theirs, and the territories of the Rajahs and Maharajah Dawlat Row Sindia are between you; they must have some motive therefore, some object in view, to induce them to move so far from their own country and expend their resources. You must recollect that every one of their *harkaras* by coming into the country, becomes acquainted with every village, every river, every stream, *ghat*, and road throughout it, and they will spare no species of flattery, no professions of friendship, no expense, to gain their object in the formations of a camp; or should they fail in this point, the same influence will be excited for the establishment of factories and *dak harkaras*. Such was the case when they first came to Hindostan; they took a place where they founded a factory and they are now the possessors of the country, for who should know their schemes? This was the policy and plan however by which they gained that country, and their views are still directed to further acquisition. If you do not attend to this you will hereafter have to say a friend warned you upon this subject, and to reproach yourself for not having followed his advice. But what will it then avail? The time will be past. I should have written thus circumstantially, but with this view, that, as a friendship has now been established between us, you and these Chieftains may know that the interest which I have expressed towards you, exceeds everything of the kind which I ever wrote to any other, and therefore that you may depute a person of ability on your own part to accompany another from Rajah Saheb Singh, to Ranjit Singh, that they may manage their negotiation that neither one of the three objects, *viz.* the formation of a Camp, the establishment of a Factory, or the stationing of *harkaras* may be allowed. The present is

the time to defeat their plans, for if their footing be once gained, no measures, which can be adopted will then avail. You should not be careless or negligent on these points ; you should also write to me in answer and also send answers from the other Sardars, who are your friends.

I have written this for your information under the impulse of my friendship for you ; you will act however as you please.

#### No. 242C.

*Translation of a letter from Rajah Bhag Singh to Rajah Ranjit Singh.*

(After the usual complimentary expressions). By the grace of God all is well here, and I am ever anxious for your health and welfare. Prior to this I sent to you a letter by Beessaoo, an *harkara*, informing you of the news of this place, from which it is probable you will already have become acquainted with them. I have now to inform you, that I have lately received a letter from General Perron which I enclose to you in this letter, and I refer you to it for all particulars. Intimation had been conveyed to General Perron that Vakeels had been sent to Rajah Ranjit Singh by the English in order to negotiate the formation of a Camp, and the establishment of a Factory and a *dak* in Lahore ; upon learning which intelligence he sent to me a pair of *harkaras*, from the impulse of the friendship and interest he entertains for me. He instances the conduct of the English towards all the Chiefs of this province such as Rajah Chait Sirgh, the Nawab Casim Ali Khan, the Nawab Vizier-Ool-mamalik, Nizam Ali Khan, and Tipoo Naik, saying that having in the first instance commenced an intercourse and friendship with them, and conciliated them by handsome presents, they began to form a Camp and to establish a Factory and *dak* ; and that when they had gained this footing, they afterwards became supreme in the country and annihilated the power of the Chieftains there. From the same motives they have now also deputed Vakeels to you, with the view of either establishing a Camp in your dominions or otherways a Factory, and that in the event of their not succeeding in either of those objects that they may establish a *dak* there. That it is evident they wish to get possession of your country, that he had by means of my regard for him, cultivated a friendship and correspondence with you, and that he therefore from the friendly concern and interest he took in me, had written to me not only to dissuade you from acceding to either of the three proposals, but to prevail with you to dismiss the vakeels, since it was not advisable that they should remain there, as otherwise they would be able to survey the whole country before they went. That he consequently had sent a pair of *harkaras* to me, and that it was necessary that immediately upon receipt of his letter, I should obtain the dismissal of the vakeels with the customary marks of attention, and that I should prevent any countenance being given to any one of these three plans. That it was unadvisable to keep the Vakeels for a moment,

General Perron, actuated by his friendship, and the interest he takes in my concerns, has written to me all these circumstances. If, should it so please God, that you consent to the establishment of a camp, factory, etc., your acquiescence could be productive one day or other of most serious ill consequences to you, and would even be the loss of your country to you. You should write and send a letter to Mr. Perron to this effect, "that in conformity to the desire of your uncle Rajah Bhag Singh, you had dismissed the Vakeels from the English Government, and that you had not consented to any one of the three proposals. That you entertain for him (the General) the warmest sentiments of friendship and regard, and the highest confidence in his ability and friendly attention. Whatever the General has written you should consider as the best advice you can adopt.

I have appointed Fattah Singh to demand the excuses of Beebee Partab Kaur, and I have sent Barma Sing Rehleeah to secrore (*sic*) to dispatch him, and he will reach you in about 15 days after his departure ; no delay whatever will take place. I was myself prepared to set out for your quarter, for I am extremely desirous of seeing you ; but in consequence of a Fereingee ship (?) having been for some days at the *qasba* of Hausbah in the neighbourhood and close to the *qasba* of Jhind, I thought it unadvisable to leave this place and have consequently deputed Fattah Singh. Chogo Sing will also arrive at the same time, and will explain to you all circumstances to which you will give implicit credit. I consider you as my own son, and may the Almighty add tenfold increase to your prosperity, which will ever afford me pleasure and satisfaction. You should send two guns of the manufacture of Lahore, and two bows under charge of some confidential person as a present to General Perron, and when he may receive them he will forward to you some article of this country in return for them, for he is a great Sardar, a man of wisdom, and the ruler in Hindostan, and it is proper to cultivate the friendship of a person of such consequence. You should by no means neglect to send this present to the General. I have written this for your information, and may you prosper ; continue to call me to your remembrance by your letters, informing me of the news of that quarter, since it is always a source of satisfaction to me.

#### No. 242D.

##### *Translation of a letter from Rajah Bhag Singh to Moonshee Ramdecal.*

I have already sent a letter to you informing you of all events here through Beessaoo *harkara*, and you will most probably have been made acquainted with them from it ; a pair of *harkaras* have lately arrived here from General Perron with a letter from him to me which I forward for your perusal, and it is proper that, after having carefully read it, you should convey all particulars to the ears of Rajah Ranjit Singh ; you should consider it as

the best advice that can be adopted. It is advisable also that the vakeels from the English should be dismissed immediately upon its receipt, with the customary present upon taking leave, since their stay there is a very injudicious measure. But you have wisdom to direct you. A confidential person also should be deputed to the General with two guns and two bows as a present to him ; and upon their arrival he will send others in return, for the General is a great Sardar, possesses talents and supreme power in Hindostan, and the cultivation of the friendship of such a person is a politic measure. You will also write a letter to the General on the part of the Rajah in suitable terms to this effect, that " he had fully learnt from the communications of his uncle Rajah Bhag Singh the particulars of his friendship and regard, and that agreeably to his request he had dismissed the vakeels who were with him on the part of the English, and moreover that he had considered what the General had written as the best advice he could adopt ". In short, prepare a letter couched in terms of the strongest regard and friendship and be not neglectful ; all other particulars will be made known to you from the Rajah's letter.

Enclosure in the foregoing letter.

General Perron's letter accompanies and from it you will become acquainted with all particulars. It is proper that you should prepare an answer to it in suitable terms expressive of the strongest friendship and regard and send it by the hand of the bearer of this letter, and you should do this without any delay. The letters should be written also in the most respectful terms, for the cultivation of the friendship of a Sirdar of his consequence will one day turn to advantage. But take care that you send a letter written on the best Cashmere paper, for it has to travel many hundred *kos*. It should be couched in these terms, that the Rajah has dismissed the vakeels of the British Government, and agreeably to his (the General's) suggestions put a stop to the establishment of a *dak* and Factory, as also the formation of a Camp, you should satisfy him perfectly on this point ; and do not be negligent ; It is an affair which extends hundreds of *kos* ; you will weigh well every word before you answer it, and do not be careless ; use all dispatch in dismissing my *harkaras* with answers to the letters, for I am anxious to receive them. But be particular in satisfying the General with regard to the prevention of the factory, the *dak*, and the camp. Neglect not this.

#### No. 242E.

*Translation copy of an arzee from Ganpat Rai, the agent of Colonel John Collins with Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia.*

Today, the 30th of December, the Maharaja, on the suggestion of Jadoo Rao Bhau sent for me, and after informing me that, in consequence of friendship as well as the ground of treaty, he had formerly written to you on the subject of denying to Lakhwajee and the other insurgents an asylum in the territories of the Nabob Vizir and the dominions of the Honourable

Company. He stated that Lakhwajee was now in the vicinity of Rajgarh Calingir (Kalinjar) followed by the troops of the Sarkar who were detached to punish him, but Lakhwa declined to engage. And Sindhia bid me in an *arzee* from myself to remind you of not affording an asylum to Lakhwajee and his followers, and to inform him of your answer. Of this injunction from the Maharaja and the Bhau I accordingly apprize you, and request you will say what reply you may choose to give.

**No. 243.**—Northward march of Daulat Rao and his army. Movements of Ambaji, Perron and Bala Rao. The Bais' war in Bundelkhand.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 10th February 1801.*

Daulat Rao Sindhia moved from his encampment of Jamgaon on the 19th ultimo, and is advancing towards the Ganga Godavary, which river he means to pass on, or about the 1st of this month.

Gopal Bhau, Mr. Filose, and Mr. Hessing's son, with their respective brigades, have already crossed the Godavary and are proceeding on their march to Burhanpur. The force remaining with the Maharaja consists of six battalions of sepoy, commanded by Mr. Sutherland, the Hindostany and Deccanny horse, and the grand Park of Artillery.

I have little doubt but that Sindhia seriously intends to pursue his route towards Hindostan with all practicable expedition, since, exclusive of Mr. Perron's repeated and urgent representations of the necessity of his presence in this quarter, the Maharaja has, I understand, received recent information that Ali Bahadur, the Bundelkhand Chief, having been secretly instigated by the Peshwa and Amrit Rao, to protect the Bais, had entered into a confidential correspondence with Lakhwa Dada.

The reinforcement furnished by Jaswant Rao Holkar to Ambajee Rao, as mentioned in my last address to your Lordship, has already been withdrawn. Ambajee is arrived at Kota, having left the conduct of his troops to Bala Rao, who is now on his march to Narwar. Mr. Perron is soon expected at Koel with four Battalions. The other Corps, subject to his authority, are posted in the Jaypur territory, in the province of Ajmer, and on the banks of the river Chambal.

The Rajah of Datia joined the Bais on the 29th of last month with three thousand infantry, two thousand cavalry, all well-appointed, and six field pieces. These insurgents have it in contemplation to place the infant son of Rawjee Sindhia on the *masnad* of the late Madhajee Patil, and have submitted the policy of this measure to the consideration of Amrit Rao and Ali Bahadur.

**No. 244**—Daulat Rao Sindhia advancing towards Hindustan. Movements of Perron, Ambaji and Lakhwa Dada. Patiala Rajah transmits British presents for Ranjit Singh.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 19th February 1801.*

Daulat Rao Sindhia crossed the Ganga Godavary on the 29th ultimo, and on the 31st had proceeded eighteen kos beyond that river on his route towards Hindostan. The Maharaja has invested Atmaram Paganavees with the office of Diwan. Sharzajee Ghatge still remains at Poona.

Sindia intended, as my advices state, to encamp to the northward of the pass of Casserbary on the 1st of this month; and there is every reason, I think, to believe, that he will shortly arrive at Burhanpur, where he expects to be joined by Sharzajee Ghatge. The Maharaja has detached a party of horse to Jamgaon for the purpose of escorting Khande Rao Holkar from thence. This guard is constantly to remain with him for the security of his person.

Mr. Perron arrived at Koel on the 11th instant. On the 13th he detached Mr. Pedron to Dholpur, a town situated on the bank of the Chambal, with three battalions of sepoys. Mr. Lewis Smith had been previously directed to proceed to that place with four battalions of Infantry. These corps, when united, were to oppose Lakhwa Dada in any attempt he might make to pass the river Chambal.

Lakhwa Dada has either compelled or persuaded Sheo Ram Bhau, Subhadar to Jhansi on the part of the Peshwa, to assist him with two lacs of rupees, and a body of four hundred horse.

Ambajee Rao left Kota on the 2nd of this month, in order to repair to Narwar, where his army is now stationed under the command of his brother Bala Rao.

I have the honour to enclose the copy and translate of a letter to my address from the Patiala Raja.

**No. 244A.**

*Translation of a letter from Rajah Saheb Singh of Patiala to Colonel John Collins.*

(After Compliments) Four boxes of presents and *khillat* accompanied by your excellent letter, arrived here under charge of your trusty servants Mootee Ram and Ram Kishen. I received the whole at a fortunate moment, and my person, sincerely attached to you, was graced and ornamented by your bounty. May the mansion of your courtesy and



kindness continue to improve, and may your generous and friendly protection increase without intermission. As I, your true friend, am faithful and constant to you in the firm road of real regard and affection, and testify my submission and attachment to the Governor General, I entertain hopes that you will render our friendly intercourse great and happy beyond former observances, and that in your letters to the most noble the Governor General you will give him constant assurances of my obedient services.

I have received the three boxes sealed and directed to Rajah Bhag Singh, Bhay Lal Singh and myself. The fourth, for Sardar Ranjit Singh, I have detained here on account of the danger that it would at present meet with on the road to Lahore. Whenever I shall be satisfied that this danger is removed, I will have the box forwarded to that city to be delivered to Mir Usuf Ali Khan. Continue to favour me with your friendly correspondence.

May the reins of the rapid steed of revolving time rest obediently in the powerful hand of the skilful horseman of dominion and good fortune.  
*Amen!*

**No. 245—Daulat Rao Sindhia reaches Burhanpur. News of Ambaji, Lakhwa Dada Zaman Shah and Ranjit Singh.**

**FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,**

**TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY, GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

*Fatehgarh, 3rd March 1801.*

Daulat Rao Sindhia arrived at Burhanpur on the 15th ultimo. He has, I understand, signified an intention of celebrating the festival of the Holy in that city, and of pursuing his march to this quarter early in the present month. The Palace at Ujjain, erected by the late Madhojee Patil, has been prepared for the reception of Sindia.

Advices from Poona state that Sharzajee Ghatge had taken leave of the Peshwa for the avowed purpose of repairing to Sindhia at Burhanpur. It is said that this Minister has obtained payment of the money which Bajji Rao had engaged to advance when the Maharaja should have passed the Ganga Godavary.

Your Lordship will readily conceive that the near approach of Daulat Rao Sindia has created a general alarm among the petty Princes of Hindostan. The Jaypur Rajah, in particular, seems to entertain great apprehensions of the effects of Sindia's rapacity and power, and in consequence has issued orders for assembling the forces of the state. Partab Singh is, likewise, desirous of forming a confederacy with the other

Rajpoot Princes, but the jealousies, which have long subsisted among them, afford little hope of union either in their counsels or actions. It is probable, therefore, that Sindhia will have few difficulties to encounter from any opposition they may make to the encroachments of his avarice or ambition.

Ambajee still continues in the vicinity of Narwar, although he has been reinforced by three of Sindhia's Deccany Battalions, and though he has received the most pressing instances, on the part of Mr. Perron, to advance against the party of the Bais.

Lakhwa Dada is at present encamped within twelve *cos* of Gehad. It being likely that this chief may, in the event of his ill success, endeavour to seek an asylum for himself and the ladies of Sindia's family, in the territories of the Nabob Vizir, I am desirous of the honour of Your Lordship's instructions to govern my conduct, should Lakhwa or the Bais apply to me to solicit Your Lordship's protection on such an occasion.

Mr. Perron, who is still at Koel, has been directed by Sindia to take possession of the fort of Firuzabad, now garrisoned by the adherents of the late Bhau Bakshee. Mir Usuf Ali Khan informs me that Zaman Shah has collected twenty lacs of rupees at Cabul by means of the contributions of his mother and chief ministers. That this money had enabled the Shah to promise an advance of one year's arrears of pay to the disaffected Durrany sardars, and which promise, being guaranteed by their favorite, Sher Mohommed Khan, had conciliated many of the insurgents, who were deserting the cause of Mahmood; and consequently that the situation of the affairs of Zaman Shah was greatly improved and assuming a most favourable aspect.

Ranjit Singh is at Jammoo, and has particularly invited the son of Usuf Ali (the latter being indisposed) to repair thither and to remain with him until he returns to Lahore. I mention this unimportant circumstance, merely as it tends to evince the confidence which Ranjit Singh entertains of your Lordship's friendly disposition towards him.

**No. 246**—Collins recalls his agent, Mir Yusuf Ali khan, from Lahore on account of the insatiable cupidity of Ranjit Singh's ministers. Lakhwa Dada in distress. Jaipur Court anxious to secure English protection against Sindhia.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 16th March 1801.*

I have the honour to enclose the copy and translate, No. 1 of an extract of a letter addressed to my agent in the Punjab by his son Mir Mohommed Ali Khan.

Influenced by the opinion contained in the latter part of this extract, which has been confirmed by Usuf Ali Khan, as well as by other reasons which I shall detail, I have directed my agent to take a friendly leave of the Lahore Durbar, and to return to Delhy, whenever he shall have delivered the presents designed for Ranjit Singh and his Ministers.

Your Lordship in directing me to depute an agent to the Court of Lahore, intended no more, I believe, than to impress Ranjit Singh with a just sense of the danger to which he would expose the interests of himself and of his nation, by yielding to the insidious proposals of Zaman Shah; and as that Sikh Chief's letter to me, a copy and translate of which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my address of the 18th of last December, clearly evinces that he had been fully apprised of this danger by Usuf Ali Khan, I humbly conceive that the object of the mission has been accomplished, to the extent of my instructions.

Moreover, I must confess it does not appear, to my judgment, that the residence of Mir Usuf Ali at Lahore would, at present, answer any useful public purpose; since there can be no immediate danger from the hostile disposition of Zaman Shah, who will most probably be occupied, for a considerable time at least, in quelling the disturbances occasioned by his brother Mahmud, and even were these circumstances different, I much doubt whether Ranjit Singh, whose judgment seems totally perverted by the vain hope he entertains of acquiring the general sovereignty of the Punjab, would not rather be disposed to unite with, than to oppose, the unwarrantable designs of the Durranny Prince on Hindostan.

I trust the foregoing reasons will justify my recall of Usuf Ali Khan; at the same time, however, I beg leave to declare that I should not have presumed to adopt this measure without your Lordship's previous sanction, had I not been apprehensive that the rapacious views of the ministers of Ranjit Singh might soon involve my agent at Lahore in difficulties of a nature unbecoming the dignity of your Lordship's Government.

Daulat Rao Sindia is still at Burhanpur, and will, most likely, be detained there some time longer, for the purpose of reducing to subjection the Bavan Paga\* Sirdars, who have excited serious insurrections, as well in Sindia's districts as in those appertaining to the Poona Government in that quarter. The *akhbars* mention that the Maharaja has been required by the Peshwa to protract his stay at Burhanpur for two months.

Ambajee, successful in some trifling skirmishes, has compelled Lakhwa Dada to retire towards Gwalior. My intelligence from the camp of the former Chief states that Lakhwa has advised the Bais to repair immediately to Calpy; and it is generally imagined that he himself will shortly be obliged to follow them, on account of his incapability to maintain his present position against the forces of Daulat Rao Sindia.

Bāvan Pāgē, the surname of a Shenvi sardar family. (See Sardesai's *Marathi Riyasat Utter Bibhag* iii, 178 n.)

The enclosure No. 2 will give your Lordship a tolerably just idea of the apprehensions entertained at the Jaypur Darbar, on the approach of Sindhia. I have reason to think that Hakeem Shevier (Xavier De Silva), who is restored to favour, has, in his letters, expressed the sentiments and wishes of Rajah Partab Singh.

**No. 246A—**

*Translation. Extract of a letter from Mir Mohammad Ali Khan to his father Mir Usuf Ali Khan, dated the 20th February 1801.*

The presents having at length reached Amritsar, the officers of Ranjit Singh will hasten their despatch to Lahore. It is the advice of the Moonshee [Ram Dayal] that these articles may be detained a short time in this last named city, whence they can, after the present disturbances shall have been quelled, be forwarded to this place. Should however the troubles continue, the Moonshee, in that case, will intimate whatever shall seem most advisable to be adopted. The Moonshee further acquainted me that Fattah Singh\* suggested the necessity of a return of presents on the part of Ranjit Singh, for those sent to him by the English, and that he (the Moonshee) replied the latter chief would act as he thought proper. Fattah Singh then asked what particular things would be most likely to meet the approbation of the English gentlemen; and the Moonshee answered that any thing selected by Ranjit Singh for such purpose would be perfectly agreeable. Fattah Singh after a short silence said that the *Doo-shala* etc. were ready and that he would procure a good horse to send with them. The Moonshee in explicit terms told me yesterday that it was necessary to say to the success of your plans to make friends of Fattah Singh and the other Ministers, who being of covetous dispositions, would be dissatisfied if they did not receive some portion of the presents, and that Ranjit Singh himself taking no part in the current transactions, could have no intelligence that such and such particular articles were intended for him. Under these circumstances the Moonshee suggested the propriety of making a division of the presents, tendering to Ranjit Singh that portion which should seem suitable to his rank and using the like observance towards Fattah Singh and the others. To this I gave an unanswerable reply: that as I had no authority whatever in this affair, I could never consent to what was proposed. I said however that as there were two separate portions for the ministers, he (the Moonshee) might take one, and give the other to Fattah Singh; and I added that whatever their determination might be, I would apprize Col. Collins of it. The fact is that these people are all little-minded and avaricious, as is evinced by the foregoing proposition. Hitherto, in the hope of the arrival of these presents, they have manifested a good disposition and conducted themselves with discretion, preserving all external appearance of amicable

\* This person has been appointed Prime Minister in the room of Dal Singh who has been confined by order of Ranjit Singh. [Collins].

intercourse ; but when they shall discover that they have nothing to gain, our residence will be rendered dangerous. Consider this well, and advise me of what shall seem best to be adopted.

**No. 246B—**

*Translation copy of a letter from Hakeem Shevier De Silva to Hussen Ali Khan and Enam-ullah Khan, dated 4th January 1801.*

Reports of Maharaja Ali Jah's intentions to proceed to Hindoostan have of late become very prevalent. Should Colonel Collins be now inclined to undertake mediating (between the Rajah and Sindia) inform yourselves of his sentiments in this respect and apprise me of the same. Some decisive measure is however necessary to be taken on this occasion. When the Nabob Zulfikar-ud-Doulah [Mirza Najaf Khan, imperial Bakhshi] had nearly possessed himself of the whole territory of Braj, Rajah Nawal Singh [of Bharatpur], in consequence of it, sent me on a deputation to Mr. Bristow. Immediately on perusal of the letter I brought him, Mr. Bristow agreed to write in the following terms to Najaf Khan : that he (Najaf Khan) should rest satisfied with the districts he had already seized on, that he should relinquish the remaining forts and parganas to Rajah Nawal Singh, and in future refrain from giving further molestation, and that Nawal Singh would on his part, abide by these conditions. Mr. Bristow likewise procured letters from the Government in Calcutta addressed to Zulfikar-ud-doulah to the same effect, and gave every degree of confirmation to the transaction. Rajah Nawal Singh, however, being of Hindoostanee descent, rendered this measures wholly useless to him in consequence of the fickleness of his disposition. You, my friends, well know that I am averse from taking any part in negotiations of this complexion, and that it is not congenial to my mind to busy myself in any such affair, yet as I have at heart the prosperity of the Rajah's government, and feel anxious for the fame of Colonel Collins, it would be alike desirable and proper, and attended with scarce any inconvenience, if the Colonel, reflecting on this mediation, would undertake it, and would write for and procure powers from Calcutta for affecting the same. After I shall have learned the Colonel's sentiments on this head, I will, here also, agitate the matter.

**No. 246C—**

*Translation copy of a letter from Hakeem Shevier De Silva to Hussen Ali Khan and Enam-ullah Khan, dated the 28th of February 1801.*

The Maharaja has today received intelligence of the arrival of Daulat Rao Sindia at Burhanpur, in consequence of which, it is in contemplation here to assemble the Rajpoot force which amounts to forty thousand of that tribe. In the consultations held for this purpose, the person\*

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\*Rai Chund, whose advise prevailed on the Jaypoor Rajah to commence hostilities on Lakhwa Dada. [at Malpura.]

who formerly reduced the condition of the Rajepoots by employing strangers, and was thereby the cause of so much disgrace to the Maharaja, is not permitted to be present ; but the vakeels of the Rajahs of most consequence, such as those of Jodhpoor and Udepur &c., have attended, and the little differences which subsisted between these chiefs are now dismissed from the breasts of each, and all of them are united in one object. I formerly wrote to you on the subject of the Colonel's undertaking to mediate between the Maharaja and Sindia, and I now again trouble you to the same effect. Impress it on the Colonel's mind in the best mode you can, that his accomplishment of this negotiation will be productive of numerous advantages, that his fame will hereby become known to the world, and that the kindness of his friendship will be established in the minds of people of all ranks. Mutual amity and affection between both states will likewise be augmented by it ; but, to lay an obligation of gratitude on a Government so great as this of Jaypoor is, which takes precedence of all others in Hindoostan and on whose noble and firm foundation the assaults of the accidents of ages, in comparison with which the present difficulties scarce deserve mention, have made no impression, is above other considerations of the utmost expediency, and an amicable termination will then at length, be put to this business. Should it be effected by the Colonel, it would be highly proper as it is also what is wished. If you have learned that the Colonel's sentiments inclined to this point, I will privately and singly repair to him, and at length with leisure and in person inform him of every particular. Get me an answer on this subject and transmit it to me without delay.

**No. 247**—Daulat Rao Sindhia wishes the English not to harbour Lakhwa Dada or the Bais.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 22nd March 1801.*

I do myself the honor to forward a *kharita* for your Lordship, together with the copy and translate of a letter to my address, from Daulat Rao Sindhia.

My native agent at Burhanpur apprizes me that the Maharaja has repeatedly expressed an anxious wish to receive an assurance from your Lordship that no protection will be afforded by our Government to the Bais or Lakhwa Dada in the event of their seeking an asylum in the territories of the Hon'ble Company, or of the Nabob Vizir.

I understand Mr. Sutherland's family will shortly leave him and proceed to Agra, and that great numbers of those camp-followers, who accompanied the late Madhajee Patil to the Deccan, are preparing to embrace this

opportunity of returning to Hindostan. Hence I am led to conclude that Sindhia means to continue at Burhanpur until the disturbances excited in that quarter by the Bavan Paga sardars, be completely settled.

**No. 248**—Uncertainty of Daulat Rao Sindhia's movements. The war of the Bais continues. George Thomas entangled in his invasion of Patiala.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fathgarh, 8th April 1801.*

The late measures pursued by Daulat Rao Sindia seem to indicate rather an intention of returning to Poona, than of prosecuting his journey towards Hindostan. It is some time since the Brigades commanded by Colonels Filose and Hessing were ordered to follow the Bavan Paga Sirdars, who had taken the route of Poona. These officers are now actually arrived within six *cos* of that city; and on the 24th of last month Sindia, likewise marched from Burhanpur to Edilabad, which is in the direct road to Poona, with two battalions of sepoys and the greatest part of his cavalry.

Sindia, indeed, pretends that he has repaired to Edilabad merely for the purpose of pursuing the diversion of tiger-hunting, and, it is said, he has informed Colonels Filose and Hessing that he shall not remain there longer than seven days. It is possible, also, that the Maharaja only means to intimidate the Peshwa into a compliance with certain terms, by affecting a design to resume his former station near Poona. But whatever the intention of this movement may be, I think it my duty to give your Lordship the earliest intimation of the sardar's departure from Burhanpur.

Bapoo Rao Ingle has recently been requested by Sindia to return to his Darbar; and in consequence Bapoo Rao is on his way to join the Maharaja, but will take Poona in his route, in order to negotiate some points of importance to the interests of Sindia, with the Peshwa. Frequent skirmishes have of late occurred between the troops of Sindia, commanded by Ambajee, and the insurgents of the party of the Bais, headed by Lakhwa Dada, but it does not appear that the forces of either have obtained any decisive advantage. Mr. Perron moved from Koel on the 3rd instant, with two Battalions of Infantry, and nearly two thousand Cavalry. The avowed object of this movement is, to reinforce Ambajee Rao.

Advices from the Punjab state that Mr. George Thomas is completely surrounded by the Sikhs. It seems this officer rashly ventured to invade the territories of the Patiala Rajah, neglecting the necessary measures for preserving a communication with his own districts. It is, therefore, likely that he will be obliged to submit to the most humiliating conditions, should the Sikhs be disposed to grant any, in order to secure a safe retreat.

No. 249—Daulat Rao Sindhia idling away his time near Burhanpur. Perron and Ambaji attack the Bais in Seondha Fort. Dikshit, a defaulting amil of Ambaji fleeing away to Oudh. George Thomas retreats from Patiala.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fathgarh, 28th April 1801.*

The Bavan Paga insurgents having been defeated and dispersed by the Peshwa's forces, Daulat Rao Sindia has recalled the Battalions that he had detached against those rebels, and these Corps are on their march back to Burhanpur. Colonels Filose and Hessing who command them, are already arrived at that city.

Sindhia returned from his incursion to Edilabad on the 28th ultimo. At present he is pursuing the diversion of tiger-hunting in the vicinity of Burhanpur, but has declared an intention of prosecuting his journey towards Ujjain, where he means to canton during the ensuing rains, as soon as he is joined by the troops now on their way from Poona ; and the Maharaja has actually issued orders to his officers to prepare their people for marching at the shortest notice.

My last advices from the camp of Mr. Perron, dated the 22nd instant, mention his being arrived within ten kos of \*Seondha, the fortress to which the ladies of Sindia's family have retired for their personal security. Several letters have passed between the chiefs of the party of the Bais, and Mr. Perron, containing proposals for an accommodation ; but it seems to be the general opinion that the latter is determined to proceed to extremities against the former. Lakhwa Dada is encamped under the walls of Seondha with ten thousand cavalry, five thousand infantry and thirty-two pieces of artillery. I am assured by my native agent who accompanies Lakhwa, that this Chief is determined on hazarding an engagement, should Mr. Perron form a junction with Ambajee Rao ; and that, in the event of their investing the fort he designs to cross the Chambal with five thousand horse for the purpose of ravaging the districts subject to the authority of Mr. Perron.

Mr. George Thomas has effected a retreat to his own Parganas. This, however, he scarcely would have been enabled to perform had not several of the Sikh Sardars by whom he was surrounded, withdrawn their troops in consequence of internal dissensions.

I do myself the honour to enclose the copy and translate of a letter to my address from Ambajee Rao, a transcript of the same I have likewise transmitted to Lieut. Colonel Scott for the consideration of His Excellency the Nabob Vizir.

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\*Seondha is 40 miles due east of Gwalior.



**No. 249A—**

*Translation copy of a letter from Rajah Ambajee Rao Bahadur to Colone John Collins, dated the 19th of April 1801.*

In consequence of our intimacy I formerly communicated to you in a friendly way some general particulars of the affairs that immediately occupied me, which no doubt you have clearly understood.

Dikshit, an amil, who for a period of 20 years continued to rent several places belonging to this *sarkar*, and was always pledged to it in engagements to the amount of four lacks of rupees, having now, from unworthy motives, connected himself with Baboo Rao Dende, who in conjunction with Lakhwa Dada is devastating this quarter,—has made away with full four lacks of rupees of the public revenue and lately fled to and secured himself in the fort of Bhind. Having detached a party to force him from this place, which Mr. Perron attacking from an opposite quarter possessed himself of, Dikshit found means to effect his escape, and is now in the territories of the Nabob Vizir.

As the concerns of both the Vizir's and Sindia's Governments are in fact the same, and as Dikshit is a delinquent of the latter state, I therefore trouble you to direct, that a letter may be written to the Nazim in whose neighbourhood he is, in order that he may be apprehended and well secured, and that information of the same may be communicated to me.

**No. 250—**Fighting near Seonda; Lakhwa and Datia Rajah defeated and wounded. Daulat Rao's plans.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 7th May 1801.*

I have this instant received intelligence that on the 3rd instant Mr. Perron attacked, and, after a sharp conflict, carried a redoubt of the insurgents, erected by them for the purpose of retarding the approach of Sindhia's forces towards Seondah.

In this engagement both Lakhwa Dada and the Datia Rajah were slightly wounded. The insurgents have lost five pieces of artillery, a stand of colours, and several horses and camels, which were taken by Mr. Perron. The chiefs of the party, and the Bais likewise, seem greatly dispirited by this defeat.

Sindia's park of artillery was to proceed towards Ujjain on the 23rd of last month, and Filose had received orders to detach a Battalion of sepoy for the purpose of taking possession of the *ghat* of Hindia, on the

banks of the Narbada. The Maharaja had fixed on the 29th ultimo by the advice of his astrologers, for pursuing his own march.

The *akhbars* mention that Sindia means to dispossess Jaswant Rao of his estates in the Malwa province, under the pretext of bestowing them on the rightful heir, Khande Rao Holkar. The papers also state that the Maharaja has it in contemplation to make an augmentation, of ten thousand cavalry, to his present force.

**No. 251**—Lakhwa and the Bais escape from Seonda after a second defeat.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 8th May 1801.*

Since yesterday, when I had the honour to address your Lordship, I have received an express from the camp of Mr. Perron, mentioning that in consequence of the loss of a second redoubt, which was carried by Mr. Perron, the Bais, Lakhwa Dada, Jaggoo Bapoo, and Durjan-sal had fled from Seondha, and effected their escape through the pass of Chandaveli. This flight of the insurgent Chiefs was conducted with too much precipitation to admit of their carrying off either camp equipage or artillery; they have, however, been enabled to secure all their private property. *Harkaras* in the service of Mr. Perron report that the fugitives purpose seeking an asylum in the territories of the Machery Rajah; but as yet there is no certain information respecting their designs, nor even the route which they have pursued.

**No. 252**—Daulat Rao Sindhia advancing towards Ujjain. Lakhwa and the Bais flee to Datia. The Rajah of Datia dies of wounds. Seondha city sacked by Pedron. Jhind looted by George Thomas.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 16th May 1801.*

Maharajah Daulat Rao Sindia left Burhanpur on the 30th ultimo, and advanced, with his army, a few *kos* in the direct road towards Ujjain. The *ghat* at the Narbada has been already secured, and *beldars* are sent forward to repair the road thither, in order that the troops may not be impeded on their march. Exclusive of these appearances, indicating an intention on the part of Sindia to proceed towards Hindostan without further delay, there are other reasons which render it probable that the Maharaja should be desirous of reaching Malwa as soon as possible, since he has been

informed that Jaswant Rao Holkar meditates immediate hostilities against his possessions in that province.

The town of Seondha has been plundered by Major Pedron, on which occasion he captured twenty pieces of artillery belonging to the Bais. My accounts from that quarter likewise state that the fortress of Seondha is closely invested by the forces of Ambajee and Bala Rao. The Datia Rajah is glad of the wounds which he received in the defence of the redoubt on the 3rd instant.

The latest intelligence respecting the ladies of Sindia's family and the fugitive Chiefs of their party, mention their being arrived in the vicinity of Datia, and that they had been deserted by the Grassia sardars. Lakhwa Dada's wound is reported to be dangerous.

Mr. Perron, who is returned to Agra, has preferred serious charges to Daulat Rao Sindia against Ambajee Rao, whom he accuses of having, for sometime past, held a treacherous correspondence with Lakhwa Dada, and of favouring the escape of the Bais and their adherents from Seonda.

By advices from Jhind, of a recent date, I learn that Mr. George Thomas is levying contributions on Rajah Bhag Singh, whose country he has entered with six battalions of sepoys, five hundred cavalry, and a large train of artillery.

**No. 253**—Daulat Rao Sindhia's measures for guarding Ujjain against Jaswant Rao Holkar. Ambaji raises siege of Seonda and pursues the rebels to Datia. Cause of the Bais hopeless. Perron gets possession of Ajmer fort; his seven forts.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 31st May 1801.*

On the 9th instant the *khillat* and other articles that were provided for Rajah Ranjit Singh, were presented to him by the son of Usuf Ali Khan at Ramnagar, in full Darbar, on which occasion the Rajah publicly expressed the high sense that he entertained of the great honour conferred on him by your Lordship, and promised to return immediately to Lahore in order to give my agent there his audience of leave.

Daulat Rao Sindia has made no movement since I last had the honour to address your Lordship, but continues encamped at Lal Bag, to which place he has lately brought his mother and the ladies of his *zenana*, though they are very inconveniently situated, being obliged to reside in tents.

The Maharaja some time ago detached five battalions of sepoys, under the command of Mr. John Hessing, with instructions to proceed

with all expedition towards Ujjain in order to check the depredations of Jaswant Rao Holkar in the Malwa province. These corps arrived at the Narbada on the 16th of this month.

It appears that Jaswant Rao is strenuously endeavouring to prevail on his brother Kashi Rao Holkar to unite with him in opposing the ambitious projects of Daulat Rao Sindia ; but at present, Kashi Rao, who is arrived in the Subah of Khandesh, is by no means disposed to draw on himself the resentment of the Maharaja, of whose power he seems greatly apprehensive.

Sindia has repeatedly enjoined Sadasheo Rao, who commands the Detachment sent against the Bavan Paga Sardars, to hasten the return of those troops to Burhanpur, as he only waits their junction to prosecute his march to Hindostan. This order has, recently, been peremptorily enforced by the Maharaja in consequence of his being apprized that the Peshwa had directed Sadasheo to remain in the vicinity of Ganga Godavary until his (Baji Rao's) arrival at the Hindoo temple of Nasik Trimbak.

Ambajee has been obliged to raise the siege of Seonda, and to retire from thence with his forces. He is now encamped within a few *kos* of Datia, where the Bais and Lakhwa Dada have sought refuge. The insurgents are so much reduced by their late defeat, that should Ambajee act with good faith towards his Prince, there can be little doubt of the speedy and entire subjection of the party of the Bais. But my intelligence from Datia states that this Chief is now actually making advances to Lakhwajee, with a view of reconciling himself to the ladies of Sindia's family.

The Fort of Ajmer surrendered to Mr. Louis an officer in the service of Mr. Perron, on the 8th instant. Forty-three pieces of cannon and a quantity of military stores were found in this fortress, which is of great strength and of considerable importance. Mr. Perron now possesses the following forts in Hindostan ;—Saharanpur, Delhi, Khurja, Aligarh and Firuzabad (these three in the Doab), Agra and Ajmer.

**No. 254**—Daulat Rao Sindia marching to the Narmada, sends Hessing to guard Ujjain from Jaswant Rao Holkar. George Thomas raids Patiala districts. News of Lakhwa Dada (at Datia) and Ambaji (at Narwar).

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 15th June 1801.*

I do myself the honour to enclose a *kharita* to your Lordship's address from Rajah Ranjit Singh, which was forwarded by Usuf Ali Khan, who

arrived at Delhi on the 9th of this month. Usuf Ali was no more than five and twenty days in returning from Lahore. The expedition with which he travelled, and the intense heat of the weather, have somewhat affected his health ; he will not, therefore, be able, immediately, to prefer answers to certain queries proposed by me during his residence at Lahore, respecting the internal state of the Punjab. As soon, however, as he furnishes me with the necessary information on this subject, and I understand his observations only require arrangement, I shall lose no time in transmitting a translate thereof to your Lordship.

In consequence of the junction of Sadasheo Rao, who arrived at Lal Bag on the 31st ultimo, Daulat Rao Sindia has fixed on the 4th instant for prosecuting his march towards Ujjain. The Maharaja intends halting at Khandwa, a place nearly midway between his present encampment and the Narbada, until his artillery, and troops have crossed the river ; after which he means to proceed towards Hindostan without further delay. It appearing that Jaswant Rao Holkar meditates an attack on the Battalions stationed at Ujjain, Sindia has enjoined Mr. John Hessing, who commands there, to act simply on the defensive, until he be joined by the main body of the army.

Mr. George Thomas has again advanced as far as the river Ghaggar, in the Sikh country, for the purpose of levying contributions on the districts appertaining to the Patiala Rajah. This aggression, which the Khalsa Chiefs might easily repel, if united in interests, has obliged Saheb Singh to solicit the protection of Mr. Perron, who accorded it most readily, and recently detached Mr. Pedron with four Battalions of sepoy to the assistant of the Patiala Rajah.

Lakhwa Dada is still detained at Datia by his wound, but Jaggoo Bapoo has marched from thence, with an inconsiderable force, in order to attempt the recovery of some parganas, of which the Datia Rajah was lately dispossessed by Ambajee Rao. My intelligence states that the troops of the insurgent sardars are deserting in great numbers, partly owing to the untoward condition of their affairs, but principally on account of the impoverished state of their finances.

Ambajee is gone to Narwar to meet his eldest son who is in Mewar. This movement seems to indicate little inclination on his part to take advantage of the present forlorn situation to which the Bais are certainly reduced. Indeed, I believe this chief is not without apprehension that the return of Daulat Rao Sindia to Hindostan will eventually be productive of evil to himself, and hence possibly he feels the less disposed to complete the ruin of the ladies of Sindia's family, from whom and their adherents he may expect future support.

**No. 255**—George Thomas attacks the Cis-Satlaj Sikh states; Perron goes to their help. Jaipur Rajah pressing for British support. Zaman Shah defeated and deposed by his brother Mahmud Shah. Jaipur and Jodhpur Rajahs meet at Pushkar for a double marriage.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 29th June 1801.*

Syed Riza Khan, my agent at the Delhi Court, writes, that "a large division of Zaman Shah's army had been totally defeated by a strong detachment of the forces of his brother Mahmood Shah within three days' march of Candahar. That Zaman Shah in consequence of this disaster, as well as from an apprehension of being delivered up to Mahmood by his own soldiers, fled from Ghazni, attended only by twenty-two horsemen, and arrived at Jelalabad, on the 28th ultimo, in his route to Peshawar".

Bhag Singh, the Rajah of Jhind, finding himself unequal to a contest with Mr. George Thomas, has repaired to Koel in order to solicit the protection and support of Mr. Perron. Previous to the departure of this Sikh Chief from his country, he delivered over the charge of his capital to a party of Mr. Perron's troops, in the hope that their presence might in some degree tend to check the rapacious designs of his enemy.

Mr. Perron is assembling a considerable force in the vicinity of Delhi, and means shortly to repair thither in person for the purpose of being at hand to support Mr. Pedron, who has advanced to the assistance of the Sikh Chiefs and also with a view of detaching Begam Samroo from the interests of Mr. Thomas, whom he seems resolved on crushing. I understand Sindia has directed Mr. Perron to bestow a superb *Khilat* on the Begam, but that this officer delays granting it until the lady shall arrive at Delhi.

The Jaypur Rajah has recently apprized me in most friendly terms, of his intention to proceed immediately to Pokhar to meet the Rajah of Jodhpur. I also learn from Deenaram Bohra that a double marriage is to be celebrated at this meeting, Partab Singh being affianced to the sister of Rajah Bheem Sing, who, likewise, is engaged to the daughter of the Jaypur Prince. After communicating this information, the Bohra addresses me to the following effect, "Heretofore certain points, on the subject of forming a treaty, were communicated in writing to Enam-Ulla Khan, and which doubtless were submitted to you. Your omitting to give an answer thereto appears inconsistent with your usual friendly disposition. Since you have been the means of increasing the ties of friendship between the Maharaja and the English Company, and since Partab Singh has confidence in your agency in all negotiations with the English Government,

it behoves you to bring this matter to a happy issue. It is, therefore, hoped that you will exert all your friendly influence to carry the treaty into effect, and that you will shortly send the Maharaja the pleasing intelligence that the Nabob Governor General has assented to this measure".

The present conduct of Daulat Rao Sindia is somewhat unaccountable, for although the greatest part of his army be advanced to the Narbada, and although he has been certainly informed that Jaswant Rao Holkar moved towards Ujjain in the beginning of this month, with the avowed intent of attacking Mr. John Hessian's detachment, yet under these circumstances the Maharaja has returned with his family to Burhanpur. It is true, however, he still talks confidently of cantoning during the rainy season at Ujjain, and has even fixed on the 15th instant for resuming his journey towards Hindostan, but his professions and actions on this point have so often varied that little dependence can be placed on his present assertions.

The Peshwa having strongly remonstrated to Sindia, against the disorderly conduct of the troops serving under the orders of Sharzaji Ghatge, the Maharaja has positively enjoined the commanding officers of those Corps to leave Sharzaji, and to proceed to Burhanpur without delay; accordingly they are now on their march to join Sindia.

The *akhbars* from Narwar state that Ambajee is attempting an accommodation with the Bais, through the mediation of Durjan Sal, the Grassia Chief. Ambajee offers to cede to the ladies of Sindia's family any district which they may select for their residence and maintenance; at the same time he expresses his consent that Lakhwa Dada be permitted to retire in safety to Benares. But the Grassia Chief, at the instance of Lakhwajee, insists likewise that a *jaidad* shall be settled on the Bais, equal to the support of an establishment of four thousand cavalry, to which proposition Ambajee refuses his assent.

P.S.—An express this instant arrived from Syed Riza Khan, contains the following information :—

"That Zaman Shah, on the near approach of Mahmood's troops who had pursued him to Jelalabad, mounted his horse with the design of making his escape, but that the animal reared, fell back, and broke one of his legs, by which accident the Shah was detained, taken prisoner and conducted to Cabul, together with thirteen other persons, among whom is Wafadar Khan. That the victorious Mahmood had entered his capital, and ascended the throne. That one of Mahmood's Sardars with three thousand horse, had repaired, by forced marches, to Peshawar, and secured the son and family of Zaman Shah, who were also conveyed to Cabul. That the regal jewels, and effects there had been seized by officers in the employ of Mahmood Shah, and that this Prince had been proclaimed King at Peshawar".

Usuf Ali Khan has, likewise, received information similar to the foregoing from his correspondent at Amritsar. Advices from Cabul mention the death of Morad Shah, the King of Turan.

**No. 256**—Jaswant Rao Holkar defeats Sindhia's detachment on the way to Ujjain, and takes much spoil. Movements of Sindhia's generals. News of the Bais (at Datia). George Thomas, in fear of Perron, leaves Kaithal for Hansi.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 10th July 1801.*

Recent advices from the camp of Jaswant Rao Holkar state, that on the 25th ultimo this chieftain attacked and defeated two Battalions of sepeys, and five hundred horse, that had been detached by Daulat Rao Sindia for the purpose of reinforcing Mr. John Hessing. The engagement took place within eighteen *kos* of Ujjain. It is also mentioned that Jaswant Rao's troops have succeeded in dispersing several other detachments, but of inferior force, employed by the Maharaja in the Malwa province.

In this action Holkar took three European officers prisoners, and captured two hundred horse, four hundred firelocks and seven guns. It is said that encouraged by this success, he intends to advance without delay against two Battalions of Sutherland's Brigade which are at present posted on the north side of the Narbada, in charge of a large proportion of the Sardar's park of artillery.

My agent at Ujjain likewise writes, that Mr. John Hessing, on receiving the foregoing intelligence, immediately evacuated the fort of Bhairongarh where he had taken post, and marched in a direction towards Shujawalpur, in order, as is conjectured, to effect a junction with Jantoo Pant who is stationed there with nearly 5,000 cavalry.

Daulat Rao left the city of Burhanpur on the 15th of last month, and on the 20th encamped within eighteen *kos* of the Narbada, where he was detained two days by a very heavy fall of rain. I understand boats have been prepared for crossing the troops; but should Jaswant Rao act with promptitude and vigour, the fate as well of Mr. Sutherland's Battalions as of those commanded by Mr. Hessing, may be decided before the Maharaja can possibly arrive to their support. Thus Sindia's late procrastination, which cannot be accounted for on rational grounds, has exposed a considerable part of his forces to the danger of being cut off in detail.



My agent at Datia apprized me that Lachmi Bai, the relict of Madhojee Patil, has privately adopted the son of Rowjee Sindia, a child about five years old ; that this adoption has been announced to Baji Rao, Amrit Rao, and Ali Bahadur ; and that should the Peshwa confirm the same, by conferring a *khillat* on the boy, the event will be publicly notified to all the Princes of Hindostan.

The military preparations of Mr. Perron at Delhi and his well-known intention of assisting the Sikh Chiefs, have induced Mr. George Thomas to leave Kaithal, and to return to Hansi for the protection of his own districts. Begam Samroo and this officer have both sent vakeels to Mr. Perron, but for what purpose has not yet been divulged.

Accounts from Peshawar notice the appointment of Sher Mahommed Khan to the Vizarat by Mahmood Shah, a measure which cannot fail of conciliating the Durrany Sirdars, who regard this minister in high estimation.

**No. 257**—Zaman Shah blinded ; Mahmud Shah King at Kabul and Shuja-ul-mulk at Peshawar. Perron appointed Subahdar of Delhi. Sutherland defeats Jaswant Rao Holkar and M. Plumet on the Narmada. Daulat Rao's defence of Ujjain.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 24th July 1801.*

By letters from Peshawar, Usuf Ali Khan is informed that Zaman Shah, Wafadar Khan, and the principal Sirdars taken at Jelalabad, have been deprived of sight, and confined in Bala Hisar, a fortress in the vicinity of Cabul. At the same time many nobles who formerly held responsible situations under the Cabul Government, but who had been degraded and imprisoned on the accession of Zaman Shah to the throne, were released and reinstated in their respective offices. Usuf Ali also apprizes me that the authority of Mahmood Shah was completely established in the Subah of Cashmere.

It appears, however, that the intelligence respecting Mahmood's being proclaimed King at Peshawar was altogether unfounded, since more recent accounts from thence state that Shuja-ul-Moolk, the youngest son of the late Timur Shah, has possessed himself of the family treasure and jewels, left by Zaman Shah in that city ; and by means of a timely distribution of money has prevailed on several tribes of Afgans to promise him their support in his pretension to the throne. As soon as Mahmood Shah was informed of the foregoing intrigue, he directed Sher Mahommed Khan

to march with all possible expedition to Peshawar, with a large body of the Durrany Cavalry, in order to secure the person of Shuja-Ul-Moolk together with the family and property of Zaman Shah. It is generally supposed that Sher Mahommad will experience little difficulty or opposition in executing these orders, as no reliance whatever can be placed in the fidelity of those Afgans on whom Shuja-Ul-Moolk depends for support.

Daulat Rao Sindia has granted a sanad of the Subadary of Delhi to Mr. Perron, which has accordingly been delivered over to him by Shah Nizam-Uddeen; and Mr. Bernier, a Frenchman in Perron's employ, has already posted guards over the different gates of the city. Syed Riza Khan writes, it is reported there that Mr. Perron means to remove the King and Prince Akbar Shah to Akbarabad, and that this report has been the cause of great uneasiness to His Majesty Shah Alam.

On the 3rd and 7th instant the proposed inter-marriages of the families of the Jaipur and Jodhpur Rajahs noticed in my address to your Lordship of the 29th ultimo, were celebrated at Pokhar with great pomp and general apparent satisfaction. Nothing could be more friendly than the behaviour of these Princes towards each other at this interview.

Advices from Malwa state that on the 4th instant Jaswant Rao Holkar detached Mr. Plumet, and Kushaba. Bakhshy, with four Battalions, and a body of Cavalry, for the purpose of dislodging two Corps of Sutherland's Brigade that were posted on the bank of a *nala* near the Narbada, but on the northern side thereof. Though Holkar's sepoy's behaved with great spirit on this occasion, yet the immense superiority of the fire from Sindia's artillery, obliged them after a sharp contest of two hours, to fall back in some confusion, and with the loss of eight pieces of cannon. But being supported by Jaswant Rao in person, they returned immediately to the charge, and retook six of their guns; after which success, however, they were again driven from the field with considerable slaughter. Jaswant Rao has since retreated twelve *kos* for the purpose of securing the pass of Satvas, which commands the direct road from the Narbada to the city of Ujjain.

Daulat Rao Sindia had not crossed the Narbada on the 2nd of this month, since when the heavy and incessant rains have, I imagine, prevented my receiving any dispatches from his camp. I understand, however, that on the day above mentioned, two Battalions of sepoy's, with the Deccany Cavalry, under the command of Sada-Sheo Rao, were passing the river, in order to march to the assistance of Sutherland's Corps.

Mr. John Hessing, having effected a junction with Jantoopant, is returned to Ujjain; which city may, therefore, be now considered as perfectly secured against any attack on the part of Jaswant Rao Holkar.

**No. 258**—Jaswant Rao Holkar and Amir Khan signally defeat John Hessing near Ujjain. Daulat Rao's main army crossing the Narmada.

**FROM**—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

**TO**—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Fatehgarh, 29th July 1801.*

I have this moment received an express from my agent at Ujjain containing the following information:—

On the 17th instant Jaswant Rao Holkar, having been reinforced by Mir Khan, attacked with his collective force Mr. John Hessing, and Jantoopant in the vicinity of Ujjain. The action continued from noon until evening, when Holkar retreated and encamped at the distance of two kos from the field of battle. It appears, however, that this Chieftain renewed the engagement, with increased vigour, on the next morning early, and after a sharp and severe contest, succeeded in completely routing the troops of Daulat Rao Sindia. On this occasion Mr. Hessing and also several of the European Officers under his command were wounded, and one was killed. Thirty pieces of cannon fell into the hands of the victors, who seem to have gained a most decisive advantage, the consequences of which may prove fatal to the power and interests of Sindia if he do not, in future, evince a greater degree of prudence and energy, than he has hitherto done.

The inhabitants of Ujjain are, as your Lordship will readily conceive, in the utmost consternation, the defeat of Mr. John Hessing's troops being an event altogether unexpected and unprovided against. Indeed had this officer chosen a judicious position for defensive operations, it is not easy to comprehend how his detachment could have suffered so total an overthrow, since it consisted of five battalions of sepoys and, at least, four thousand cavalry, exclusive of a strong park of artillery, amply sufficient to cover the whole extent of his line.

Sindhia arrived on the banks of the Narmada the 3rd of this month, and on the 13th (the date of my last advices from thence) the greatest part of this army had crossed the river. The detachment some time ago recalled from serving under Sharzaji Ghatge, had at this time reached Burhanpur on its route to join the Maharaja.

The late successes of Jaswant Rao have induced Sindia to secure the person of the child Khande Rao Holkar in the strong fortress of Asseer-garh. The Maharaja has likewise ordered Gopal Row and Sharzaji Ghatge to repair to his camp with all possible expedition.

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